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ANATOMY OF THE HUMAN BODY

BY ROBERT B. COOPER

JOHN B. LIPPINCOTT

PHILADELPHIA, 1881

SECOND EDITION

OF TWO VOLUMES

VOL. I

ANATOMY

LONDON

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TRAVELS
IN
EGYPT, SYRIA, CYPRUS,
THE MOREA, GREECE, ITALY,
&c. &c.

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS.

INTERSPERSED WITH

Anecdotes of Distinguished Persons,

AND

ILLUSTRATIONS OF POLITICAL OCCURRENCES.

BY

JOHN BRAMSEN.



Ordine gentis
Mores, et studia, et populos, et prælia dicam.—VIRGIL.

SECOND EDITION.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

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1850.

PREFACE.

THE following letters contain remarks made during a tour performed in company with the eldest son of Sir John Maxwell, Bart. The period they embrace is from July 1813 to September 1815. When the reader considers the immense extent of the route, and the importance of many of the places visited, he will not expect that an equally minute description of all should be given.

The journey through Sweden was performed with so much celerity, that I should have omitted the mention of it altogether, had I not considered it as forming a necessary link to the descriptions of more remote countries, and as in some measure likely to prove a guide to others taking the same route.

Itineraries composed merely as speculations, at a distance, being generally incor-

rect, and rather apt to mislead than to assist the traveller, I have been the more minute in describing the posts and accommodations to be met with on the road.

In the account of Berlin, my native city, it might naturally have been expected that I should have entered more largely into the state of its society, manners, &c. but the situation of the Continent, harassed by contending armies, and un'certain of the events which a day might produce, prevented me from mixing in its domestic circles. At the moment of my arrival, Berlin was menaced by the French, and its inhabitants were in the utmost confusion, so that little opportunity was afforded for investigation or curiosity, and to have described it, as it was when I formerly resided there, would have excited little or no interest. At Vienna, I was enabled to carry my observations further, and have therefore described it more minutely. But in no part of my work have I drawn upon

the fertility of invention to make up for the barrenness of facts. The reader is therefore solicited to excuse occasional deficiencies, with the reflection that wherever his curiosity may be awakened, it is excited and gratified by truth alone. I am not without hope that this may be the case in my account both of the Hungarian peasants and of the Mainotte pirates, a race but little known to travellers, and whose ferocity keeps at a distance those who are anxious to inquire into their habits and manner of life.

In my account of Athens I am particularly indebted to the kindness of our learned Cicerone Signior Lusieri, whose refined taste, added to a long residence there, enabled me, in his company, to view and describe those treasures of antiquity which it presents.

In my accounts of Greece, Syria, Palestine and the Holy Land, it cannot be expected that after the indefatigable researches of Spon, Wheeler, and others of ancient, and Chateau-

briand, Clarke, &c. of modern times, that any extensive discoveries should be made. But the spirit of enterprise in man, added to the increasing facilities afforded for its gratification, have put forth new objects of inquiry, which have enabled me to speak with certainty upon matters on which they only hazarded conjectures. I therefore feel confident that even in this often-explored region, the reader will find some curious and useful information to repay his labour.

It may not be improper here to remark, once for all, that although I have been compelled occasionally to differ from former travellers who have visited the same places and described the same objects, I have not been actuated by any motives of hostility, but by a love of truth.

As I have occasionally animadverted with some degree of severity upon certain recent traits in the French character, it may be permitted me to state that in doing this I have not been influenced by any want of respect towards that

nation generally, but that my sole design has been to place in a prominent point of view those calamities which most European nations have sustained during the late war, and to depict the evils which an implicit obedience to the dictates of lawless ambition have produced in civilized society.

I cannot close these prefatory observations without requesting indulgence for the many errors of style that I am conscious are to be met with in the ensuing pages : and, as an apology, I would beg leave to remind the reader that the composition was undertaken in a language not my own, but which is almost equally dear to me, as being that of a country whose character I venerate, and in which I have received kindnesses, the remembrance of which no vicissitudes I may hereafter be subject to, can ever efface from my mind.

I trust that the public will pardon me for yielding in this place to the feelings of gra-

titude which are peculiarly excited by recollections of the past, and that those friends whose names occur in my narrative will accept the assurance that their services and their own estimable qualities will never cease to preserve a place in my memory. Above all, to my much respected friends, Sir John and Lady Maxwell, to whose kindness I owe the gratification of accomplishing the tour I have here described, and to their amiable son, in whose society it became a source of additional pleasure and instruction, I beg leave to offer my warmest acknowledgments, for all the obligations they have laid me under by their kind and hospitable intentions, both in this and every other instance, since I first had the honour of their acquaintance.

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ERRATA

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2	— 8,	<i>for when an officer, read when a noncommissioned officer.</i>
12	— 12,	<i>— we put up, read we alighted.</i>
34	— 22,	<i>— four noble statues, read five noble statues.</i>
34	— 23,	<i>— of Ziethen, read of Ziethen and Keith.</i>
65	— 9,	<i>— river Hanack, read Hauna.</i>
65	— 9,	<i>— Hanakers, read Haunackers.</i>
84	— 1,	<i>now French ambassador ought to be in a note.</i>
88	— 1,	<i>the anecdote of the Prince of Parma should be in a note.</i>
90	— 1,	<i>for in conjunction, read at the head.</i>
90,	— 25,	<i>— obtained at Leipsig, read at Bar-sur-Aube.</i>
97,	— 8,	<i>— not much, read scarcely.</i>
119,	— 26,	<i>— Ihre Gnaden, read Ihro Gnaden.</i>
184,	— 2,	<i>— against the Mohabit Arabs, read Wahabite Arabs.</i>
231,	— 22,	<i>— which leads to Alexandria, read which leads to Rosetta.</i>
222,	— 15,	<i>— the bed on the hill, read the bed on the Nile.</i>
256,	— 18,	<i>— strawberries, read a kind of berries.</i>
256,	— 21,	<i>— stood the identical, read stands the identical tree.</i>
271,	— 8,	<i>— Kedion, read Kedron.</i>

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78,	— 2,	<i>— Hidias, read Phidias.</i>
374,	— 10,	<i>— Count de Donau, read Dohna.</i>

LETTERS,

&c.

LETTER I.

Departure for GOTHENBURG.—Description of the Town.—Necessary Precautions for Travellers in SWEDEN.—Money of the Country.—Want of Specie.—Departure for TROLHETTA.

Gothenburg, August 1813.

YOUR repeated solicitations drew from me a promise to give you an exact and unvarnished account of my tour to the Continent. I have not forgotten that promise; and to prove how faithfully I am disposed to keep it, I write to you from the very first town we touch at on our landing. A voyage of eight days has brought us from the port of Leith to that of Gothenburg, or Gotheburg. Our passage was

fair, but afforded no adventures worthy of notice. The entrance of the harbour is rough, and requires some attention in the mariner to clear it without danger; the port itself is very spacious, and well secured by a strong fort.

We had scarcely dropped anchor, when an officer came on board to demand the names of the captain and passengers, and to examine our passports. His dress was not the most remarkable for cleanliness; and had he seen the same long service as his uniform, we should have had no difficulty in pronouncing him a veteran. His behaviour, however, was polite, and instead of making an exorbitant demand upon our purses, he very modestly contented himself with requesting a little tobacco for his pipe: this moderate demand was granted, and he left us perfectly contented. The captain went on shore to obtain permission for us to land, but we were detained full five hours on board before the order came. We then procured a boat, and after an hour's rowing reached the canal, which passes through the town, and which has a very gay and pleasant appearance, being bordered by a row of trees on each side. We took up

our quarters at *Blomm's*, one of the best inns in the place. Gothenburg is a fine large town, the second in rank in the kingdom, situated at the mouth of the Gotha, on the Categat. The main street, which runs from east to west, and nearly divides the town into two equal portions, is remarkable for its regular and well-built houses; but the other streets consist chiefly of low wooden buildings, and are besides narrow, and badly paved. The frequency of fires, and particularly that which happened in 1803, which reduced the greater part of the town to ashes, had, we understood, induced the Government to issue an order, that no wooden houses should for the future be built within the walls: this is a laudable regulation, and well worthy the imitation of other continental towns. Several canals pass through the place, and tend greatly to promote the objects of commerce. The Custom-House stands fronting the town, and does not exercise any very severe scrutiny upon the traveller; for the consideration of a few shillings, his trunks, baggage, &c. are allowed to pass without examination.

The objects most worthy of the visitant's

notice, are the Swedish and German churches, the college, the town-house, the East-India house, and the hospital; most of these buildings, however, are of inferior architecture. Besides the inn above-mentioned, there is another good inn, kept by *Segeline*; the accommodations at both are tolerably good, but not very remarkable for cleanliness. The population is estimated at about 18,000. A considerable trade is carried on with England, and the East and West Indies. The climate is considered as healthy, but the winters are very severe.

As I know it is your intention to visit Sweden, permit me, Sir, as one who has gained some knowledge by experience, to give you the following advice. It is absolutely necessary for you to have a servant who speaks the language of the country, otherwise you will experience the greatest difficulties, and be liable to much imposition. Should you engage a servant in Sweden, you must be careful to get one from the country, as those from the capital are by no means the most desirable. My friend Mr. Maxwell, and myself, have to acknowledge our obligations to Messrs. Kenedy and Aberg, the heads of an

eminent commercial house in Gothenburg, for their kindness in endeavouring to obtain a servant for us, and we have only to regret, that the individual, whose name is Nostram, rendered himself, by his inattention and abuse of confidence, unworthy of their kind recommendation, of which we have already reason to complain. We are told the inns of the smaller towns in Sweden are generally bad, and the accommodations miserable; it will, therefore, be necessary to furnish yourself with your own linen. I would also recommend you to lay in a store of bread at the larger towns for your use on the road; as, we are assured, that in the village is black and bad: imitate Horace in his journey to Brundisium:

“ ————— *utra,*

“ *Callidus ut soleat humeris portare viator.*”

I also advise the traveller to take his own harness, as the horses are generally very ill accoutred. These animals are here very small, and the peasants who drive them almost as stupid as their beasts. It requires very resolute efforts to induce the drivers to get on; but should they prove insolent or untractable,

there is a book kept at every post-house, in which travellers may enter their names, for the purpose of having them brought before the proper magistrates to answer for their conduct. If the journey requires expedition, it is necessary to send an express to order the horses, as otherwise they will keep the traveller waiting for many hours at every post. It is usual to pay eight skillings (Swedish money) per mile to the express, the present—*trinkgeld*—included.

It may be useful to give you the following estimate of the Swedish money ;

Silver.—12 runstycks are equal to 1 skilling ; 48 skillings, 1 silver dollar or banco dollar ; 1 silver dollar is worth at par 5 shillings English.

Paper. The notes of Government are in plotes, ricksgalds, and banco dollars ; a plote is equal to 10 skillings, or 1s. 8d. English ; a ricksgald dollar bears a discount of 50 per cent., so that our silver dollar is equal to one and a half of a ricksgald dollar ; a banco dollar is worth the same as the silver dollar.

The post in Sweden is paid at the rate of eight skillings per mile for each horse ; not less

than sixteen in Stockholm, and at some towns twelve. The fee to the postilions is quite optional, and not required by law; two skillings at every relay will satisfy them. A great convenience to travellers is the printed tarif, which is kept at every post-house for their information, and which enables them to avoid imposition. I must not omit mentioning the necessity of having the passport examined at the police office of the first town travellers reach, as otherwise they are liable to be stopped in the journey to the capital. There is in Sweden a great deficiency, or rather a total want of specie. No coins of gold and silver, and but few of copper, are seen in the ordinary transactions of life. The paper-money, which properly speaking is the only currency of this country, consists of bills or notes banco of ten, twelve, fourteen, or sixteen skillings: the twelve and sixteen are the most in use. However, with a little small coin and this paper money travellers may make their way through the whole kingdom; but it is necessary to be provided with small notes, as the peasants will not change the larger ones, and care must be taken not to tear these notes, as, unless in a sound state,

the postmasters refuse to take them without considerable reduction.

But, you will naturally ask me, what are the manners and habits of the people ; what is the society of Gothenburg ? I candidly answer, that as I write plain matter of fact, and have no views of entertaining or more properly speaking, of deluding your judgment by exaggerated descriptions and a parade of information I never obtained, I cannot reply to this question satisfactorily. Our journey through Sweden will be too rapid, and our stay in her towns too short to form just ideas of these particulars. This, however, I can with truth say, that so far as my means of observing reaches, I have found the Swedes civil and attentive to travellers, and in no respect deficient in the duties of hospitality,

LETTER II.

*Arrival at TROLHÆTTA.—Description of the Town.—Canal and Sluices.—Town of WEN-
NERSBURG and Lake of the same name.—
Cultivation of the Country.—STOCKHOLM.—
Description of this Town.—Miserable State
of the Inns.—Environs.—Politics.*

Stockholm, August 1813.

THE first place at which we stopped, after quitting Gothenburg, was Trolhœtta, a small town miserably built of low wooden houses, and with very irregular streets. It is romantically situated on the river Gotha, and surrounded by picturesque and diversified scenery. We found but one inn in the place, which is remarkable for nothing but its uncleanness and the wretchedness of its accommodations : the inmates too were rude and inattentive. We paid a visit to the canal, which is a stupendous piece of workmanship, hollowed out through an immense pile of rock one hundred and fifty feet high, which operation was mostly effected by gunpowder ; altogether

it presents an object of vast and persevering industry. The sluices also merit the attention of the traveller. This canal with its sluices, forms part of a plan long projected by the Swedes, to unite the Baltic and the German ocean by means of an inland navigation. Had this design been fully carried into execution, it would not only have improved the interests of their internal trade, but also have tended to prevent the interruption of their foreign commerce, which is sure to be the case when there is a war with Denmark. The course of the river Gotha held out the hopes of rendering this great national plan practicable. It issues from the northern extremity of the lake Wenner, and after a varied course of nearly seventy miles, falls into the sea near Gothenburg. A number of shoals and cataracts, however, render a considerable portion of the stream unnavigable; and particularly at this place all further navigation would, by less enterprising minds, have been deemed naturally impossible. But perseverance has in a great measure succeeded in overcoming the obstacles which nature seemed to have interposed. We were informed by our conductor, that the canal cost 380,000 thalers

banco, equal to about £90,000 sterling; it produces the company about 30,000 thalers banco a year. The Crown Prince of Sweden (Bernadotte) visited this place in 1812, on which occasion he was presented by the Company with a handsome barge. Our guide was careful to point our attention to a rock on which was inscribed the date of a visit paid here by the Royal Family.

By the way, I must not neglect to point out our friend the conductor to your notice. He is a schoolmaster of the town, who for some small consideration will be happy to accompany you, and communicate his little stock of knowledge. He speaks German and French, and I recommend him to the notice of such of your friends as may visit this place.

From the canal we went to see the two old sluices, and the five waterfalls; they are low, but surrounded by a variety of grand and beautiful scenery: the rocks of granite are tossed about in a thousand rude and fantastic forms, yet pleasingly diversified by tufts of underwood, junipers and stunted firs. Our friend the schoolmaster told us that in winter this place is much infested with wolves, and that

for their security the inhabitants are obliged to hunt them in parties of four or five hundred. The bear too is frequently found prowling in the fir woods; hares and other game also appeared to be very numerous.

On quitting Trolhœtta, we took a little circuit from the main road to see Wennersburg. This town is small and built of wooden houses; but pleasingly situated on the Wenner lake, at the north of the Gotha; the shores are picturesque, and the waters remarkably clear and full of fish. We put up at the post-house, and found the accommodations tolerably good. The road from Gothenburg to Trolhœtta, and from thence to Wennersburg, is excellent, the country wild and romantic, but the soil poor and the state of cultivation rather backward, owing more to the inclemency of the season than to any apparent neglect of industry in the inhabitants. On passing the bridge of Ronnam, on the road from Trolhœtta, we had a noble view of the river Gotha and a fine burst of wild scenery. The rest of the country on our way to the capital was not deficient in picturesque beauty. Hills and dales, rocks and retiring vallies, spreading plains with their numerous

lakes, forests, meadows and arable land, lay blended together in pleasing contrast and delightful variety.

After Wenersburg we passed through no other place of any considerable interest, till we reached Stockholm. There are few towns whose situation is more striking and romantic than that of the capital of Sweden. It occupies two peninsulas, a larger and a smaller one, between a bay of the Baltic and the waters of lake Mælar, besides seven small rocky islands. The town is large and regularly built; the houses are chiefly of stone, or of brick stuccoed, and roofed with tiles; the streets are rather narrow and badly paved. Its population is estimated at about 70,000. Among the buildings chiefly worthy of notice is the palace, which is a large triangular edifice, uniting elegance with grandeur. It rises from the centre of the city, and commands an extensive prospect in every direction. The Museum, though not a very considerable building, is enriched with many fine specimens of sculpture, and some good paintings by Rubens, Raphael, Vandyke, &c. The bridge before the palace is a conspicuous ornament to that part of the town. The

opera, the theatre, the palace of the Princess, and the Bank, are, however, by no means remarkable either for the elegance of their design or the taste displayed in the architecture. The Riddezhholm, in which are the tombs of the Kings of Sweden, is, properly speaking, the only handsome church in the town. The harbour is an inlet of the Baltic, and affords a noble anchorage for ships of the largest burthen, which are enabled to lie close to the quay. The merchants' houses, which run parallel with this quay and front the shipping, and the Admiralty Isle, are lofty, and in a pleasing and graceful style of architecture. At the extremity of the harbour, several streets rise one above another in the form of an amphitheatre, and exhibit a very striking outline to the view.

It will surprise you to hear, that in so large a trading town there are no good inns; yet such is the case, as they are generally very deficient in cleanliness, and on the whole but poorly conducted. Those kept by Robinson and Frieze are generally reckoned the best; but we found the hotel kept by a Scotch woman, of the name of Jones, the cleanest in town, and provided with the best

accommodations. I would recommend the traveller who visits this capital to hire furnished rooms, and to dine at this hotel. Cultivation thrives but ill in the neighbourhood of the town; indeed the climate is little calculated to bring vegetation to any state of perfection. The winters are severe, but the climate generally esteemed salubrious.

It is not our intention to make any stay in this place, and therefore you must not expect that I am to introduce you into the societies of Stockholm. With men of science we have had no opportunities of becoming intimate, and with the scandalous chronicle of the place I have neither leisure nor inclination to become acquainted.

The Crown Prince appears to be a great favourite with the people of Sweden. It is to his prudence that they attribute the peace with England, and the consequent revival of trade; indeed it is but justice to state, that this prince has maintained the honour, and watched over the interests of his country with a very commendable zeal, and that the excellence of his character well entitles him

From this place we had a long and dreary journey down the country to Ystad. All the remembrance I have of this fatiguing and

to the esteem and affection which he enjoys among a people, whom he is one day destined to govern.*

* The prince has since obtained this exalted station, and, from the character he has hitherto maintained, it is anticipated that he will pursue those maxims which alone can tend to make his people great and happy, by extending the interest of commerce and agriculture and promoting the reign of peaceful arts.

LETTER III.

Departure for OREBRO.—An Account of the Town.—YSTADT; Description of this place and its Environs.—Departure for STRALSUND.

Ystadt, August 1813.

FROM Stockholm we took an excursion to Orebro, a small town, the houses of which are very low and constructed of wood; yet its general appearance is by no means so gloomy as many of the towns we passed. Upon a small island in the middle of the town, formed by two branches of the river Swart, stands the castle, formerly a royal residence, and now remarkable for being the place of the assembly of the Diet. We saw the king's apartments, which are very plainly furnished. At the entrance of this building stand two lofty towers, adapted for defence in case of necessity. The inn is kept by a Frenchman, and is tolerably good.

From this place we had a long and dreary journey down the country to Ystadt. All the remembrance I have of this fatiguing and

uninteresting journey is of wretched towns, miserable inns, and still more miserable accommodations. From the gloom of these cheerless objects we were agreeably relieved by the beautiful appearance of the neighbourhood of Ystadt, whose soil is more fertile, and whose vegetation boasts of greater luxuriance. The houses, too, appear more clean and comfortable than we had remarked in any other part of Sweden, as the inns in all the smaller towns are invariably uncleanly, and miserable in the extreme; the inmates having no idea of what you term comfort. The roads throughout Sweden are, however, generally good.

Ystadt is a small town, well situated on a bay of the Baltic, with a good harbour; yet the houses are generally low and built of wood, and the streets badly paved. We put up at the inn kept by widow *Johanson*; it is reckoned the best in the town, though by no means well supplied, nor are the accommodations comfortable. This place is noted for its manufacture of good gloves, of which we purchased some specimens and found them of superior quality: they are sold at the moderate price of from twelve to fourteen skillings Swedish a pair.

At a short distance from Ystadt we had a view of a superb palace, designed for the Crown Prince of Sweden, and which is nearly completed.

There is a regular packet from this place to Stralsund, and the fixed price of the passage is two rix-dollars and thirty-six skillings each person, and two rix-dollars and twelve skillings for a servant; a horse two rix-dollars twelve skillings, and for a carriage from four to five rix-dollars; the passage is frequently not longer than eight hours. If you wish to engage a yacht for yourselves, it will stand you at about seventy rix-dollars, besides a dollar or two for *trinkgeld* to the men; but these vessels are small and uncomfortable, and cannot, with any convenience, accommodate more than a very small number of passengers.

At this place we had the honour to meet a prince of Hessen, who had formerly been in the Danish service, but since that government joined with France had resolved to retire to his native country. We also met M. de Bruen, the Russian chargé d'affaires at Copenhagen, besides several English gentlemen. We all joined and engaged an extra packet, cleared the port of Ystadt about four

in the afternoon, and reached Stralsund next morning at nine o'clock, after a rough and uncomfortable passage.

The entrance of this port is rather dangerous; it lies much exposed, and the current is very strong and impetuous off the bar. The violent rocking of our small packet, together with a crowded cabin, was not the most agreeable thing in the world, and not a few of our fellow passengers were on the doctor's list.

I fear you will find this letter rather dull and uninteresting: I heard no good anecdotes to enliven it, and I saw nothing worthy of any thing like elaborate description, even if I had the inclination to become descriptive.

In my next letter you will find me in my native country, which, I trust will afford me the means of atoning for the want of interest in this.

I have the honour to be, &c.

LETTER IV.

Arrival at STRALSUND, Confusion that prevailed in the Town.—The Dilemma in which the Author was placed.—Ruse de Guerre.—Success of it.—Departure for BERLIN.—Alarm on the Road.—Arrival at GREIFSWALDE.—Description of STRALSUND and GREIFSWALDE.—Arrival at BERLIN, Description of the Town.—Superior Hotels.—Necessary Precaution.—An Argument of the Landlady.—Useful Hints to Visitants.—Vanity of Bonaparte, his Exploits at the Royal Palace.—Anecdotes of two celebrated Generals.—Public Places.—Patriotism of the Inhabitants.—Hatred to the French.—Attention shewn to the English.—Society of BERLIN.—General Regret for the Loss of their Queen.—Environs of the Town.

Berlin, September 1813.

ON our arrival at Stralsund we put up at *Bagonini's*, which is the best inn in the town. We found the place in the utmost confusion, as the inhabitants were in hourly expectation

of a visit from the French. The English garrison was under arms, and guarded the gates with their field pieces, and matches ready lighted. Colonel Lyons, the commanding officer, a gentleman of much military skill and personal bravery, had made every preparation to give them a warm reception. All strangers and ladies of rank had quitted the town for the island of Rugen, and every thing valuable had been transported to that place of security. We saw many women in tears, while others seemed by their manner and their countenances, to manifest a solicitude of a different description. The rumours of French gallantry had evidently reached their ears, and they lost sight of the horrors of war in the anticipation of all the scenes of gaiety that were likely to ensue. Our hotel was crowded with nobility and gentry from the environs of Schwerin, to which General Walmoden was then retreating, and had it not been for the kindness and polite attentions of Mr. Israel, the banker, upon whom my friend Mr. Maxwell had a letter of credit, we should have found ourselves in great perplexity for lodgings: he very kindly accommodated us with beds.

In the afternoon, the situation of the place became more critical ; the streets were thronged with waggons laden with valuables, furniture, &c. of the Duke of Schwerin, and he himself soon followed with his whole court. It was reported that they intended to take refuge in the island of Rugen. It now appeared high time for us to think of our departure ; but at this very moment we met with a provoking disappointment. It was impossible to procure a single horse at the Post, as they had all been previously put in requisition by the wealthy inhabitants, and by other strangers, who had been more provident than ourselves. While in this state of perplexity, we met with two English gentlemen, one of whom held the rank of major, and the other of captain in the militia. We decided on going together ; and as Mr. Maxwell also held the commission of lieutenant-colonel in the militia, I thought that, in such a case, it would not be amiss to invest him with a higher brevet in order to hasten our departure. I therefore hurried to the Post, and, in a tone of much importance, ordered horses for a general and his suite. This *ruse de guerre* had its desired effect, as in less than

three hours after, we obtained four horses for ourselves, and the same number for the two other gentlemen. When we left the town it was in a state of indescribable bustle and confusion. We proceeded in the following order ; the two English officers, who had provided themselves with saddle horses, rode in their full uniform before our carriage, and promised to fire a pistol to give the alarm if they should see anything of the approach of an enemy, that our little caravan might, if possible, have time to save itself. The night set in very dark. At about a mile from Greifswalde, the two English officers returned at full gallop, informing us that they heard the noise of horses at a distance, and had reasons to believe it was a French piquet. We immediately halted, and formed a council of war to consult what steps we ought to pursue ; but while we were devising the best means of effecting our escape, one of the gentlemen discovered a light, and our alarms were very agreeably quieted by the intelligence that it was the carriage of a commissary of General Walmoden, who was travelling post haste to Stralsund with the agreeable news, that the

French had been forced to retire more than three German miles.

We entered the town of Greifswalde at about midnight, and were not a little surprised to find the streets crowded with people. On our appearance they set up a shout, *die Franzosen! die Franzosen!* the French! the French! The two English gentlemen rode forward, convinced them of their error, and quieted their alarms. When we came up, I explained to them who we were, and assured them that the French had retreated. This intelligence cheered them up, and the greater part retired to their homes.

Though these interesting particulars, which so strikingly display the dread which the name of a French invasion inspires, have detained me so long, you will naturally ask me for some account of Stralsund, which I will willingly give you as far as my information goes. It is a large and strong town, situated on the Baltic, and carries on a considerable trade. It has many good buildings, but the generality of the houses are low, constructed of brick, and remarkable for being almost all pointed at the roof. The streets are narrow and badly paved. We

saw several handsome churches, and admired its very spacious and noble market square. The inhabitants are estimated at about 12,000, and in general have a healthy appearance. The environs of this place are very sandy, though they produce good crops of corn; vegetables however are not abundant. The island of Rugen lies opposite the town, but owing to the confusion that prevailed there and the suddenness of our departure, we did not visit it. Greifswalde is four German miles from Stralsund; it is a small strong and well built town, situate on the river Rick, which is navigable from thence to the Baltic. The church of St. Nicholas merits the attention of the traveller. There are two good inns, one at the Post, and the other kept by *Wilhelmi*. The road from hence to Berlin is sandy and uninteresting, and we hasten over it to hail the capital of Prussia.

Berlin is situated on the small river Spree; it extends nearly four miles and a half in length, and is esteemed one of the most beautiful and magnificent cities in Europe. Its plan is extremely regular, being the result of one design, and yet this regularity has nothing of that dulness and monotony which

renders many other cities disagreeable. The appearance of the streets and the houses, pleasingly interrupted by little plantations of trees, and occasional garden enclosures, bespeaks taste and variety, and gives the city a cheerful appearance. The streets are spacious and well paved, although the country produces but little stone. This defect was supplied by the inventive genius of Frederick the Great, who compelled all vessels that came up the Havel and the Spree, to take on board, at Magdeburg, a ballast of free stone, and to disembark it at Berlin. Indeed this city owes most of its chief embellishments to the spirit and laudable perseverance of this great monarch, who rendered it the seat of elegance, as well as of science, letters, and arms. Berlin is also celebrated for the excellence of its hotels. The best are, the *Hôtel de Russie*, kept by the widow *Obermann*, and *Die Sonne*, both of which are on the celebrated Linden walk. In addition to these we may mention *la Ville de Paris* in the *Brude Strasse*, and *der Goldene Hirsch* in the *Danischen Platz*. These are all very superior hotels, but especially the two first, which are situated in the fashionable part of the

town, and particularly adapted for travellers of pleasure. To men of business may be recommended *die Stadt Portugal*, near *die Lange-Brücke*, and *der Schwarze Adler*, opposite the post-office. It may be useful to inform you, that when travellers arrive at the more fashionable inns, they must be careful to make a previous agreement for apartments, &c. which will be found a valuable precaution. While I was staying at the Hotel de Russie, I was shown the bill of a young English nobleman, with whom I had the honour of being acquainted, so overcharged, that I undertook to get modified and obtain a reasonable deduction. The argument of the widow *Obermann* was, that the French had plundered her of so many horses and valuables, that she was determined the English should pay for it. This was uttered in the tone of a joke, but I have reason to believe there was much truth in the remark, and that this joke becomes too often a very serious matter of fact to the traveller. Should you make any stay in this capital, it would be advisable to hire private furnished apartments. For a sitting room, a dining, and two sleeping rooms in the Linden, including

accommodations for a servant, we paid at the rate of ten dollars courant, or about forty-three shillings a week. Should you be unable to procure rooms in this street, it is probable you may be able to accommodate yourselves in the *Friedrich's Stadt*, or *Willhelm's Strasse*, two of the most central and airy parts of the town; you will find it a comfortable arrangement to breakfast at your lodgings and take your dinner at the restaurateurs. There is a very good and well managed establishment of this description, at the sign of *der Jäger*, immediately behind the arsenal. There is also an ordinary at three o'clock at all the principal hotels, which is generally well served, moderate in the charge, and frequented by some of the best company.

I before mentioned the Linden, and I cannot but call your attention to it, as it is a delightful walk, much admired by every traveller, and generally considered as one of the principal ornaments of the town. This promenade is called the Linden walk, from being overshadowed by triple rows of linden trees of the most graceful appearance. It forms the centre of the street, having carriage roads on

each side, from which it is protected by handsome lines of granite posts, connected by iron chainwork, and illuminated by large reflecting lamps. One end of it leads into the park, through the celebrated Brandenburg gate (*Brandenburger Thor*), which is a very tasteful structure, designed after the Propyleum of Athens. The park itself is allowed to be one of the finest and most extensive in Europe, and serves as the constant rendezvous of the fashionable inhabitants.

Charlottenburg, which is about a German mile from the park gate, was formerly a mere village, but has now grown into a town; it forms a delightful ride through the park, and is much frequented in the summer, particularly on Sundays. There is a species of open vehicle, framed of wicker-work, called *bauerwagen*—peasant-waggon—which run between Berlin and Charlottenburg, and tend much to the convenience of the middle classes, as the expense is only the trifling sum of from two to four *groschen*; the drivers take their stand at the park-gate till they have their full complement, and then they set off at a brisk rate. These waggon are drawn by three or four small horses, which are driven abreast, and

have an amusing appearance. The other end of the Linden walk terminates at the palace of Prince Henry and the Opera House.

The royal palace and garden in Charlottenburg are well worthy the traveller's attention. We visited the tomb of the late lamented Queen ; the sculpture destined to adorn it is from the hands of the famous German sculptor Rauch, now in Rome, but it had not yet arrived.* The orange-tree walk is very delightful, and the palace contains some celebrated paintings of the Italian school. *Der Schwarze Adler* is the best inn in the town.

But to return to Berlin : you will, of course, expect me to conduct you to some of the objects most worthy of attention. Among the first of these rank the royal palace : it is an enormous square pile of building ; the apartments are very splendid, particularly those of the second story. From the arcade in front there is a charming prospect ; the walk called *Lust garten*, with its slopes of verdure, the dome, *die Hunde Brücke*, the Opera House, the Linden walk as far as the Brandenburg gate, extend below, and form the most interesting group imaginable.

* I understand it is now completed and erected.

When General Bonaparte took Berlin, nothing would satisfy him but he must sleep in this palace ; and such was the height of his ridiculous vanity, that, forsooth, nothing less would content him than the royal nuptial bed itself ! Even his Mameluke was placed in another royal couch, in the room next to his : the same the Emperor Alexander occupied when he visited Berlin. The French general and his associates had stript the palace of all the best paintings, and the empty spaces were still left unoccupied from which they had been torn : nay, the very throne, in the audience room, could not escape the cupidity of this magnanimous conqueror ; it was stript of the gold and silver ornaments with which it was richly decorated.

The arsenal is a noble structure. The twenty-one heads in alto-relievo, over the windows in the yard, which represent the various characteristic features of the dying, are masterpieces of the well-known Schlütter ; and in spite of the revolting nature of the subject, are much and deservedly admired. When we visited this place two days ago, there was not a single piece of ordnance left behind. The officer who showed it us, by

order of the commandant of the town, observed that the French had carried off every piece of ordnance, and had left the place as we saw it; ‘our only resource, therefore, is,’ said he, ‘that as soon as any are captured from the enemy, we put horses in immediate requisition, to convey them to the army.’ He added, that he had lately come from the head-quarters, where it was commonly believed that the brave conduct of General Walmoden was the principal cause which prevented the entrance of the French into Berlin, under Ney, in August 1813.

The cathedral is situated near the palace, and opposite the gay promenade of the *Lust-Garten*; its exterior is elegant, but it has rather a naked and dreary aspect within. The fine statue of the Prince of Dessau, from the chisel of the celebrated artist Schadow, which has lately been erected in the *Lust-Garten*, opposite the palace, merits your attention. On the *Langen Brücke*, over the Spree, which passes close to the palace, stands the colossal equestrian statue of the great Elector Frederick; it is of bronze, and esteemed a masterpiece, from the hand of Schlütter. The palace of the late Prince Henry has been con-

verted into an university, which is reported to be in a thriving condition. The building itself is large and substantial. It is reported that the great Frederick was not at all well pleased with this structure; the style of the windows, in particular, gave him great offence. He observed, that those of the first floor resembled the windows of a stable, the second those of a church, and the third those of a brothel.

The opera-house, which is never regularly open except during the carnival, is a magnificent building: there are four handsome entrances, and the grand staircase is spacious and elegant. Its interior decorations perfectly correspond with its external magnificence; the boxes are richly ornamented, and the saloon handsomely painted. It is calculated to contain about two thousand persons. We did not forget to visit *Wilhelms Platz*, and were well repaid for our curiosity. We were also much pleased with four noble statues of the generals Ziethen, Schwerin, Seidlitz, and Winterfeld: the three latter fell gloriously in the Seven Years' War; the former was a general of cavalry, and much admired by the great Frederick. The old general visited his ma-

jesty a short time before his death ; the king was seated in his arm-chair, confined by the gout, but he no sooner beheld the venerable hero enter his apartment, out of breath from his effort in mounting the staircase, than he arose from his chair, and clapping the veteran on the shoulder, exclaimed, ‘ come, father Ziethen, sit down and rest yourself, and let me hear how you are.’ The descendant of this brave general is the ‘ worthy son of a worthy sire ;’ he treads closely in the footsteps of his heroic father, and commands a corps in the Prussian army, that in point of bravery has no need to dread a comparison with those heroes who fought in the Seven Years’ War. With respect to General Winterfeld, the account of the action in which he fell is briefly this. He had rode out about half a German mile distant, to visit Marshal Bevern in his camp, when his division was unexpectedly attacked by the Austrian General Nadasti, with a far superior force. Winterfeld hastened back to put himself at the head of his corps, and maintained the contest with all that ardour which he had so often effectually exerted; but he was now obliged to yield to superior numbers. He re-

tired with the loss of twelve hundred men, and was mortally wounded, while endeavouring to cover the retreat with all that cool intrepidity for which he was so remarkable. On hearing of the death of his favourite officer, the great Frederick observed that it was a national loss. The last time the king saw him before this fatal battle, he alighted from his horse and embraced him, observing, ‘ General, I ‘ had almost forgot to give you your instructions ; and now I have but one command ‘ to lay upon you—take care of your health.’

During the late war, this town deserved well for its patriotism and public spirit, innumerable instances of which are on record, and will be ever remembered by their countrymen. I myself was witness to more than one example of this laudable spirit, which I am proud of recording. After one of the actions fought near the capital, by the army commanded by the Crown Prince of Sweden, I saw two boat-loads of wounded soldiers brought in from the field of battle ; when they came near the *Hunde Brücke*, many of the poor women, who were sitting there selling fruit, threw all the contents of their baskets into the boats, exclaiming, ‘ we are

‘ strong, and can work ; but those who are
‘ wounded for their country claim assist-
‘ ance.’ When the commonest men in the
streets met a wounded soldier, they would
stop him, ask him many civil questions, and
give him nearly the whole contents of their
pockets. As it may naturally be supposed, the
hatred against the French is deep and univer-
sal. The English are much liked, and no
opportunity of praising their government neg-
lected. The national air of ‘ God save the
‘ King’ was, by way of compliment, played
in almost every hotel and street of the town ;
an order had even been given, that English
officers should be exempt from having their
passports examined at the police, which at
that time was rigidly enforced from all travel-
lers. Every mark of attention was shown to
several English noblemen and gentlemen,
who visited the head-quarters of the Crown
Prince of Sweden ; they were cheered all
along the road, and through the lines of the
soldiers, to which even the Cossacks did not
a little contribute. During the time of dan-
ger, every man from sixteen to fifty years of
age was a soldier ; the merchants and respec-
table men of the city formed themselves into

a kind of armed police, of both foot and horse, for the protection of the town. They were well mounted, and handsomely accoutred. The very ladies rivalled the men in a display of patriotic devotion; rings, jewels, and trinkets were thrown into a common fund, for the support of the good cause; even the children sent their little savings, to show that what nature denied in years they manifested in their good wishes. The hospital was daily attended by ladies of the first families, who, rising superior to the fastidiousness that generally characterizes female education, came to attend the wounded officers and soldiers. This noble example was set even by some of the female branches of the royal family. ‘Really,’ said an officer of the Allies to a gentleman who was visiting the hospital, ‘really it is a pleasure to be wounded, when one is sure of receiving such care and attention from the fair.’

You will find the society in Berlin of a very superior description; and such is the marked attention and civility of the inhabitants towards travellers, that it is not difficult to gain admittance to their private balls and concerts. The ladies are well educated, and

among other pleasing accomplishments that of music is not neglected. The loss of the best of Queens has not only spread a gloom over the mind of their beloved sovereign, but has also cast a damp over the general cheerfulness of society ; her name is never mentioned without feelings of enthusiastic regard, and her memory will ever be cherished and revered by all who had the happiness to know her, or to feel the effects of her benignity. What contributes to confer an additional interest on her memory, is the circumstance of its being pretty generally believed that grief was the cause of her death, in consequence of her majesty's having humbled herself so far as to kneel at the feet of the usurper of France, to obtain Silesia for the Prussian monarch. To the Queen's solicitations the tyrant is said to have replied, '*on ne peut pas se dispenser de répondre à une demande faite par Votre Majesté.*' All the branches of the royal family are remarkable for their condescension towards foreigners ; and among the many I have known, who have had the honour of being presented to their notice, and invited to their society, I have not heard of one who did not speak in the highest

terms of their easy manners and affability of address.

I have the honour to be acquainted with some English noblemen, who were a few days since at the Princess of Ratzewille's, and they expressed themselves not a little gratified with the attentions they received. Should you be a member of the society of Freemasons, I would recommend you to visit the grand lodge in Berlin, where members of that society are cordially received; during the winter very splendid balls and concerts are given at this lodge.

The climate of Berlin is generally esteemed very healthy; the seasons are regular, and the spring delightful, but the winters severe. The population is estimated at about 120,000. It enjoys a flourishing trade, and is celebrated for its porcelain, as well as its enamelled, inlaid, and embroidery works.

Among the many buildings which I have not leisure to describe, are the king's riding school, in *der Breiten Strasse*, where a very superb stud of horses is always kept; the two new churches at the *Gend'armes* market, which are of very tasteful design; the Danish Square—*der Dänische Platz*;—the Veterinary

School, and its garden. One single building is appropriated to the Academy of Arts, the Observatory, and the School of Anatomy, which is situated on the Linden, facing the public library ; the former structure, as well as the latter which contains many valuable works, are well deserving of your notice. *Mon Bijou* is a handsome palace belonging to the Queen Dowager, with a beautiful garden, delightfully situated on the banks of the river. Besides these I might enumerate the Masonic Lodge, the Prison—*die Hausvogtey*, the Lunatic Asylum, and many other buildings, both public and private, that well merit your attention.

The environs of Berlin are very sandy, and yet produce good crops of corn, potatoes, and a variety of other vegetables and fruits of good quality. The villages best worth seeing are Charlottenburg, of which I have already spoken, Schöneberg, Schönhausen, Pankow, Strahlow, Treptow, Hünersdorf, &c. I have before described the Brandenburg gate as very elegant. A car of superior workmanship formerly stood on its top, and gave a finish to the whole of this tasteful structure ; but this, as well as many other valu-

able objects, disappeared when General Bonaparte quitted the town.* Four years ago the church of St. Peter was destroyed by a great fire, and has not been since rebuilt.

To-morrow we intend to take a ride to Potsdam and Spandau, and on my return to Berlin I will give you an account of our excursion.

I have the honour to be, &c.

* It will be gratifying to learn, that this and other valuable plunder has been restored by the Prussian hero, Prince Blücher.

LETTER V.

Visit to POTSDAM.—Anecdotes of Frederick the Great.—SANS SOUCI.—Anecdote of Bonaparte,—of the present King of Prussia.—Visit to SPANDAU.—Return to BERLIN.—Present State of the Town.—Cossacks.

Berlin, September 1813.

THE distance from Berlin to Potsdam is four German miles; Zehlendorf lies about midway, and divides the road, which is excellent, into two posts. Potsdam, celebrated as the residence of Frederick the Great, is an elegant and well built town, situated on an island formed by the Havel and the adjoining lakes and canals. The streets are broad and regular, and adorned with a variety of magnificent edifices; yet Potsdam is but thinly inhabited. The royal palace is a noble structure, of very superior and tasteful architecture. We visited the square, where the parade is held, but were sorry we could not see the royal guards, not less renowned for their bravery than their handsome and martial appearance.

The men that compose these troops are remarkable for their tall stature, and the inhabitants fabricate many stories concerning their formation by the great Frederick; they pretend that that monarch was so anxious to obtain tall men, that his corporals often took them by force whenever they could find them. On one occasion they carried the wish of their sovereign so far, that they took the *heyduck* of the French ambassador the moment he had quitted his carriage to attend the levee. When the minister complained bitterly of this violent proceeding, the servant was restored to his master, and the corporal reprimanded for his too eager zeal. Respecting this ambassador another anecdote is related. On his first audience he came highly perfumed; the great Frederick, who was more accustomed to the smell of gunpowder than of musk, and would have preferred a pinch of rappee, with which it is known that his waistcoat pockets were constantly well stored, could not refrain from very visibly manifesting his dislike. The ambassador observed it, and felt much embarrassed. The day being stormy, ‘*de quel côté Sa Majesté croit-elle,*’ said he, ‘*que le vent vient?*’ The king abruptly replied, ‘*de France, votre Excellence!*’

The market place, in the centre of which there is a handsome obelisk, with marble statues of the first four kings of Prussia, is worthy of a visit. In addition to these, we noticed the barracks of the royal garde-du-corps, the Berlin bridge, the riding school, and the *Exercier-Haus* ; as also the houses of Brockes, Hiller, and Brandt, the two latter of which are built and fitted up in the English style. We also visited the cathedral and the church of St. Nicholas ; in the former we admired the pulpit, which is of very curious workmanship : here, too, we saw the tombs of Frederick Wilhelm and Frederick the Great. The French church and the Brandenburg gate did not escape our notice. Of course we did not fail to pay an early visit to the famous palace of *Sans Souci*, which is situated on a rising ground near the town. An old Swiss shewed us the apartments where the great Frederick breathed his last. This Swiss, and the famous Dr. Zimmerman of Hanover, were present at that very interesting moment ; the arm-chair in which this great monarch sat, the day before his death, to see his guards exercising, has never been removed from the spot. He felt he was fast going, and as the sun shone upon him, he exclaimed, ‘ I shall be soon

‘near you!’ Every article of furniture remains precisely in the same state in which it stood the day the king died. When General Bonaparte visited this palace, he affected to feel great veneration for the place: on entering he took off his hat and observed to his suite; ‘*Messieurs, voilà des appartemens que j’aime beaucoup.*’ The very book lay open on the desk in which the king had been reading for the last time; it related to certain military tactics:

And thou.....to thy latest breath,
Shalt feel thy ruling passion strong in death.

POPE.

The writing-table was plain and covered with green cloth; we saw the marks of ink that had been spilt upon it, and the following anecdote was told us respecting it. The great Frederick was one day writing on this table, while the present King of Prussia, then about three years of age, was playing at ball in the apartment; the ball accidentally fell upon the inkstand and upset it. The king was angry with the prince and ordered him to *Coventry* in a corner of the room; the prince refused to submit, and when asked why he did not obey, replied, ‘the descendant of Frederick will never consent to be punished for such

“ a trifle.” The old Swiss who shewed us these apartments, was very loquacious on the favourite subject of his royal master, and among several more trifling circumstances related the following. Frederick had issued an order on the parade of Potsdam, that, for certain reasons, no officer should be permitted to go to the masked ball at Berlin; the king himself attended in a mask and domino, and had scarce entered the saloon when he recognized Baron L——, captain of his own guard. The king accosted him, ‘ *capitaine, vous êtes ici contre l’ordre du roi.*’—‘ *C’est vrai, monsieur : mais foi de cavalier si vous dites un mot.*’—The following day after the parade, the king called this officer on one side and thus addressed him : ‘ *Capitaine, vous êtes major, mais foi de cavalier si vous dites un mot.*’ On another occasion, as the king was passing in review several regiments of troops near this place, he observed a soldier who had a large scar of a sabre wound over his face : finding he was a Frenchman, the king addressed him in his native language : ‘ *Dans quel cabaret as-tu été blessé?*’ The soldier very smartly replied, ‘ *là, où votre majesté a payé l’écot!*’ in allusion to one of

the battles lost by Frederick. Another anecdote showed the coolness and self-possession of the king: the guards had been promised a rise in their pay; as this was not complied with, they rose in a mutinous spirit, and marched towards the palace in order to obtain redress from the king himself. His aid-de-camp, alarmed at their approach, came to inform his royal master of the circumstance. Frederick, who was quietly writing at his desk, ordered his hat and sword, and went to the palace yard to meet them; without manifesting the least surprise, he drew his sword, placing himself at their head, at the same moment gave the word of command: "*linksum kehrt euch, marsch!*"—to the left wheel, march!—Surprised by the sudden appearance of their royal master, and electrified by the energy with which this order was given, the men actually obeyed the word of command, and returned quietly to their barracks.

We were also shown Voltaire's apartments: his chair and desk had never been moved; the inkstand was much spattered, that too copious fountain, from whence have flowed many of the miseries that have since deluged Europe with blood.

The garden is spacious and very tastefully laid out. Near the staircase of the pavilion, the tombs of some of the King's favourite dogs were pointed out to us. The Great Frederick was often accompanied in his campaigns by one of these faithful animals. They also showed us his flute, on which we were assured he was a great proficient. A few good paintings of the Italian school, which were saved by some of the keepers of the palace, are remaining, but the best had been sent off to Paris, the grand receptacle of the plunder of Europe : yet, forsooth, Bonaparte uncovered his head on entering these apartments, and felt a profound veneration for the residence of Frederick the Great !

The new palace, which we also visited, is very rich and splendid, particularly the marble hall, the colonnade, ball-room, and the theatre. Here they produce a book in which all visitants enter their names. We saw the autograph of the Emperor Alexander, of the present King of Prussia, and the Grand Duke Constantine. When Bonaparte visited the place they took care to conceal the book.

We were credibly informed that the French were not merely contented with plundering the best of the paintings, together with the black eagle, and the sash of Frederick the Great, but actually brought their horses into the large saloons of the garden belonging to the new palace, and kept them there, though there was no want of stable-room.

From this place we went to visit the palace which the late monarch had begun, and which promised to rival the rest in magnificence, but his death left it unfinished : however, the inhabitants flatter themselves that the present King will complete the work. Such of the apartments as are finished are superbly decorated, and are good specimens of the taste displayed by the royal founder, as also are the gardens and the concert-room, which is adorned with no less than ninety-six elegant vases and lamps, made in the shape of pine-apples. The kitchen, however, is constructed in a singular taste ; could you believe that it represents a Roman ruin ? The grotto is very elegant, but has suffered much from the wantonness and rapacity of the French. There are two very fine statues, one of the late King and the other of Isis, the

latter of which the French mutilated by breaking off the hands. The garden, which not many years ago consisted of a vineyard, and of small pleasure grounds belonging to individuals, was purchased by the late King; it is situated on the lake called the *Heilige See*, Holy Sea, and the river Havel; it commands an extensive prospect, and can boast of some very picturesque scenery.

During our stay we put up at the hotel *König von Preussen*, the first inn in Potsdam; the accommodations are good, but the charges extravagant. The town itself, however, with all its magnificence, is a dull and gloomy place; the few manufactories it contains are in a state of inactivity, and the men are fast enrolled and sent off to the army. During our short stay, we saw many wounded pass through the town, and frequent parties of Cossacks transporting French prisoners; in fact, every thing wore a very warlike appearance, and the stirring spirit and patriotic zeal of the Prussians were every where visible. From Potsdam we made an excursion to Spandau; the road is sandy and every way unpicturesque. We were surprised to see the greater part of the town

reduced to a heap of rubbish ; the fact is, that in 1812 the French obtained possession of this fortress, and made a warm resistance against the Prussians and allies, but were finally compelled to yield it to superior bravery. They were beginning to repair the fortress, which is generally used for the purpose of a state prison ; besides, it is a piece of policy to keep this place in a good state of defence, as it is a protection to the city of Berlin. The town is situated on the Havel ; the buildings that remain entire are regular, but the streets are narrow and badly paved. A number of subterraneous vaults under the town were used as the arsenal and deposit of the stores. We returned to Berlin well pleased with our excursion.

You will naturally inquire what is the present state of society in Berlin ? It requires some considerable time of residence, long intercourse, and abundant leisure for observation, to enable one to give any thing like a satisfactory answer to such an inquiry. To learn what is the combined and general effect of peculiar habits and customs upon the sentiments, character, and happiness of a people, would require more opportunities of dis-

crimination than I have had the good fortune to meet with of late, having been many years absent, and my present stay being but short. As I before professed to you, the object of this journal is to detail facts and to maintain an impartial love of truth; I have, therefore, indulged in no sallies of the imagination. I have not, nor do I intend, to describe countries as more beautiful than they are; nor have I represented the inhabitants as more virtuous or more vicious than I really found them.

We had the misfortune to find Berlin in a state of great alarm and confusion, on account of its immediate vicinity to the scenes of warfare. All other ideas, pursuits, and speculations, were swallowed up in this great object. All was anxiety to learn the latest news from the field of battle. We constantly saw groups of inhabitants on the *Linden* discussing the latest accounts from the army. If any wounded soldiers were brought in, a crowd gathered round, not merely to offer their condolence, but to inquire with earnest solicitude for their friends and relations. I saw a large group gather round a wounded officer, who was relating

the prodigies of valour their countrymen had performed in the field ; and as suddenly disperse to run to the arsenal, or to the door of the commandant of the place, who lived directly opposite, to learn what was the fate of the day, and to see the wounded and prisoners who were hourly brought in.

Two days ago I saw a swarm of Cossacks pour into the town, some with their horses laden with old boots, kettles, &c. others leading two or three of the enemy's horses taken in the engagement the day before. Yesterday I witnessed the arrival of about three hundred and fifty more of these hardy children of the north, who had returned from the pursuit of the French. As a proof of the hatred they bear this nation, I heard that meeting one evening with a piquet of Prussian lancers, consisting of twenty men, and mistaking them for a party of French, they put them all to the sword ; it was only on the following day that this unfortunate error was discovered. Almost all these fellows had some article of booty tied on to their horses ; I noticed one with three small kettles and two pairs of boots dangling behind him. They had scarcely

reached the arsenal and alighted from their horses to bivouack, when they were surrounded by clamorous old women, and no less clamorous Jews, who were trying to make themselves understood, in order to bargain for their booty. One Cossack had all his fingers covered with rings, but his riches had not yet succeeded in hardening his heart. Seeing a Prussian soldier who was severely wounded, he drew a large purse full of gold from his pocket, and presented his less fortunate companion in arms with a ducat. All the bystanders were loud in their applause of this act of generosity, except a Jew and two other men near me, who declared with much apparent chagrin, that the Cossacks were very hard to deal with, and that it was impossible to make any thing like a bargain with them. They appeared much attached to their small horses; as soon as they obtained their rations of bread, they immediately offered a portion to the animal, who appeared grateful for the boon, and equally attached to the giver. They constantly spoke to their horses with the same familiarity as to intelligent beings.

As we intend to quit this town for Prague in the course of a few days, you may expect that my next letter will be dated from thence.

I have the honour to be, &c,

LETTER VI.

Departure from BERLIN.—FRANKFORT ON THE ODER.—Melancholy Fate of Leopold, Prince of Brunswick.—SILESIA.—SAGAN.—Journey to PRAGUE.—Remarks on the Country and its Inhabitants.

Prague, October 1813.

As far as the circumstances of the times would permit, our residence in Berlin was not unpleasant, and we quitted it with regret. Our journey lay through a rich and well cultivated country; the road was good, and the following morning after our departure we reached Frankfort on the Oder.

This town is regularly built, but the streets though broad, are badly paved; there is a spacious market-place and a good wooden bridge over the Oder. Near the latter stands a monument, by De Kleist, to the memory of Leopold, Prince of Brunswick, who was drowned near this spot in the noble act of endeavouring to rescue some of the inhabitants from a watery grave. Every spring and fall, the

Oder swells to such a height as to inundate the neighbouring country, and at the time we passed it, great tracts of land were under water. It was in one of these spring-tides that the bridge was carried away, and numbers were precipitated into the flood; the boat in which the Prince was attempting the rescue of some of these unhappy persons upset, and he unfortunately perished in his laudable efforts in the cause of humanity.

The celebrated university, which was founded here in 1506, is now removed to Berlin. We took up our quarters at the *Drei Kronen* which is a good inn; there are two others, the *Schwarze Adler*, and *die Goldene Sonne*, where, I understand, the accommodations are equally comfortable.

Three great fairs are held here annually, which are much frequented by the Polish merchants. The objects worthy of attention are, the churches of St. Nicholas and St. Mary, the town-house, the barracks, and the memorable spot where the great battle of Kunersdorf was fought, between the Prussians and Austrians, in 1759. When the French retired, in 1812, they destroyed a part of the

bridge, which they were busy in repairing when we passed through the town.

We were much delighted with Silesia; the roads through it are tolerably good, the country is well cultivated, and the soil rich and productive. The peasants are generally tall, have a healthy appearance, and bear in their countenances the marks of comfort and content. Most of the peasants' houses are constructed of wood, with a kind of wooden gallery round them, which gives them a picturesque appearance. No small attention seemed to be bestowed on their gardens, which regaled the eye with abundant crops of fruit, particularly cherries, apples, gooseberries, and currants.

We passed a range of mountains called the Riesengebürge chain, which offers a variety of wild and magnificent views. The part of Silesia we passed had suffered much from the French, particularly the town of Sagan, which it was their intention to convert into a fortress; they actually destroyed or burnt nearly the whole of the suburbs. This place is the capital of the principality of the same name, has a good palace, and carries on an extensive manufactory of cloth. We put up

at *der Weisse Lowe*, which is a respectable inn.

We now entered Bohemia, which appears well cultivated ; at least if I may judge from the parts through which we passed on our way to Prague. The country is enclosed within lofty mountains, the soil is rich and abundant ; the only absence of cultivation seems in the inhabitants themselves, who are far behind the Germans, both in the cleanliness of their houses and their persons. They are generally dark in their complexions, and not of a very healthy appearance ; the women are also mostly brunettes, and appeared more remarkable for gracefulness of manner than beauty of person. Their language, like the Moravian, bears a great resemblance to the Slavonian ; German is, however, very generally understood, particularly at the inns.

The species of red wine, which is produced in the environs of Melnick, is of a superior quality, and in taste resembles Burgundy : the wine of Leitmeritz is also pleasant, but far inferior to the other. In Bohemia there are two fortresses, Joseph and Theresien-Stadt, which rank in the first order.

We have now been two days in this place,

and lodge at *der Erzherzog Karl*, in the *Carmelitten-Strasse*. It is reckoned the best inn in the town, and is conducted on a very extensive plan ; yet, like all the inns in Bohemia, it is at once expensive and uncleanly. Should you visit this town with an intention of making any stay, I would advise you, on your arrival at the inn, to come to terms with the landlord, as otherwise you will be exposed to much imposition. There is a good *table-d'hôte* at half past two o'clock, where many travellers dine, and where we found the society respectable. I would recommend this place to you, as you will find the double advantage of economy and an opportunity of observing the manners of the country, as well as frequently of picking up much useful and interesting information. Besides the inn here mentioned, there are two other cheaper and inferior ones ; *das Rothe Horn* and *die Linde*.

Prague is a large and well fortified town. The houses are high, but of antiquated architecture ; the streets are broad and well paved, with the additional advantage of a side pavement. It contains a considerable number of elegant buildings, and its population is estimated at about 85,000. The place is divided into the old, the new, and the lesser town.

I do not imagine you will derive much profit or pleasure from a protracted stay in this place, and I shall hasten you on to Vienna. In my letter from that place, I shall have some particulars to give you of the buildings, &c. of Prague. Of the society of the town I know scarcely any thing, as all intercourse with the inhabitants is very limited, owing to the critical situation of the country. The scene of war is unfortunately in its neighbourhood; and, of course, strangers are regarded with a certain degree of suspicion.

I have the honour to be, &c.

LETTER VII.

Description of PRAGUE.—MORAVIA.—Money of the Country. — IGLAU. — ZNAYM. — VIENNA.—Hints to Visitants.

Vienna, October 1813.

WHILE at Prague, we visited the royal palace, which is an immense building, in a very superior style of architecture. To give you an idea of its grandeur, it will suffice to mention, that it can boast of one hundred and forty-seven splendid apartments, and two noble ball-rooms, one of which is appropriated to waltzing and the other to country dances. The palace of Lobkovitz, the hospital of the invalids, the arsenal, the university founded in 1347, the Jesuits' college, the bridge over the Muldaur which consists of twenty-four arches and is one thousand seven hundred feet in length, are all elegant structures, and well worthy your attention. The gates of the town have an imposing appearance, and produce a very favourable impression on the mind of the traveller on his first entering the

place. There are about a hundred churches, some of which are very rich; the most remarkable is the cathedral of St. Veir, which is the burial-place of the kings, and which contains several relics of St. Nicholas, and of the holy cross. We also visited the palace of Tschernin; it is of singular architecture, and has a good gallery of paintings. The ruins of Vischerod, which was once the splendid residence of the old Bohemian sovereigns, deserve a visit. Manufactures of gloves, hats, lace, linen, and steel, are carried on here. The town has suffered much from the devastations of war, but particularly by the siege of Frederick the Great in 1757.

The road from Prague to Vienna, like all the roads of Austria, is excellent. The country of Moravia appeared to be no less fertile than Bohemia, to which, indeed, it bears a great resemblance in many of its general features. Though it is well cultivated, yet the wines produced are but of an indifferent quality. There is a profusion of all kinds of game, and every facility is afforded for the sports of the chase. The inhabitants appeared not so well informed as the Bohemians: it is true they are not deficient in

hospitality, but their manners are rough, and the common people seemed much addicted to the use of spirituous liquors. They have the same sallow complexions as the Bohemians, owing, I think, to their uncleanly habits and irregular mode of living, for the climate is far from being in any degree unhealthy. The peasants who live on the farther side of the river Hanak are denominated Hanakers, and distinguished by a peculiarity of dress: the men wear very wide red leather small clothes, with small round hats; and the women red stockings, which give them a singular appearance. The capital is Brünn, and the principal fortress Olmütz, which is kept in excellent order.

We found specie exceedingly scarce; as well in Bohemia and Moravia as in Austria itself; nothing is to be procured but paper money, called *einlösung-sheine*. When on the frontiers of the Austrian dominions, you will do well to convert only as much specie into paper money as is wanting for your journey to the capital, as you will find on your arrival at Vienna that you can procure full twenty per cent. more for your specie than the postmasters will allow you for it on the road.

The current money is the florin of sixty kreutzers, and the kreutzer of four fennings; the rixdollar in Vienna values one florin and a half in specie. The exchange on England is variable, and therefore you must watch for a favourable opportunity of negotiating. On our arrival we found that the pound sterling was worth eleven florins, and it is now up to fourteen and a half. Excuse me for suggesting another friendly piece of advice; if you get letters of credit, take them, if possible, either on *Geymüller, Hertz and Co.*, or *Arnstein and Co.* These houses will give you more for a pound sterling than the house of *Fr—e and Co.*, which is too rich to attend to such trifles. I know it as a fact, that several noblemen now here, who had letters of credit on that house, did not get as much for the pound sterling, as those who had credit on the houses before mentioned. As I know you wish to travel economically, I shall take care to drop such occasional hints as experience has convinced me will be of use to you.

Posting in the Austrian states is well ordered and expeditious: for each horse we paid one florin fifteen kreutzers per mile; from fifteen

to forty kreutzers to the postilion, according as they deserved it; and twenty-four kreutzers for *schmieren*, or greasing the wheels. I am informed, that in Hungary the rate is only one florin, with from twelve to thirty kreutzers for the post-boy, and fifteen for the article of *schmieren*, when you find your own materials.* I must not forget to tell you that we passed the celebrated inn, situated near the public road between Kolin and Planian, where Frederick the Great was stationed to observe the famous and memorable battle fought there between the Austrians under Marshal Daun, and the Prussians under his own command. The marks of the cannon balls were still visible on the walls of this building, a proof how much the life of this great monarch was at that moment exposed.

We stopped a short time at Iglau, a small old town in Moravia, situated on the river of the same name; it is badly built and thinly inhabited, but remarkable for the mines in

* It may appear a trifling circumstance to mention, but I would advise you to provide your own grease for the wheels; this article is often very scarce on the road, and the charge enormous.

its neighbourhood. We took up our quarters at the post-house, a tolerably good inn. We stopped also at Znaym, a considerable town, situated on the Teya, but badly built; the houses in the market-place are all constructed with colonnades, and ni one of these, which was the post-house, we put up at during our stay, and found the inn tolerably well kept. This is the last town on the frontiers of Austria: the Chartreuse, an old palace, and the abbey of Luka, merit the notice of the traveller. On quitting this place we had a view to the left of the mountains which divide Austria from Styria, and which sweep in long perspective to the south-east.

On our arrival at Vienna we drove to the hotel *die Kaiserinn von Oestreich*; it has the reputation of being the first in the city, but from experience I can assure you that it is at once the dearest and the least remarkable for cleanliness of any in the place. In preference to this I would advise you to put up at *die Müllerische Gebäude*, on the *Rother Thor*; it is a large building, superior in comfort and accommodation to the other hotel, and has the advantage of standing in a more airy situation, while at the same time it.

commands some very fine views.* It is at present kept by an Englishwoman, who is very attentive to the comforts of her visitants. The *der Römische Kaiser*, at the *Freiung*, is a reasonable hotel, with a well served restaurateur belonging to the same establishment. Besides this you will find several other good restaurateurs ; among the best is *Rothmann* in the *Kärntner Strasse*, where you may dine very well at the moderate price of from two to four florins, and have a choice of dishes. There is another good house of this kind kept by *Wiegmann* in *Singer-gasse*, and one by *Paris* in the *Herren-gasse* ; the latter in particular keeps an excellent table.† I find that the most comfortable way of living here is to hire private lodgings. If you intend to mix much in society, you would do well to fix your residence, during the winter sea-

* Travellers who take up their residence here will do well to guard their servants against leaving open the doors, &c. as the building is large, and robberies are often committed without the means of detection.

† It may prove an additional recommendation to the *bon vivant* to know that this man was cook to Count *Francis Pal—y*, a nobleman well known as a votary to the art of epicurism.

son at once more comfortable and more reasonable, either in the *Kärntner Strasse*, or the *Graben*, *Kohlgraben*, or *Herren-gasse*, as these are within the circle of the fashionable world: but if it is your intention to live retired, I advise you to chuse the suburbs, where the apartments are cheaper than those in town. *Die Leopoldstadt* is the most agreeable and fashionable of all the suburbs; you will find it both pleasant and convenient to breakfast at home and dine at the restaurateurs. To guard you against being imposed upon, I will give you some idea of the price of apartments in the streets abovementioned: for a first floor, consisting of three rooms, including a room for a servant, we paid at the rate of from two hundred to two hundred and sixty florins per month. As most of the valets-de-place are but little trustworthy, it would be advisable to hire a servant with a good recommendation for the time you stay there.

Another hint I would wish you to pay attention to. I have been given to understand that the ladies in the fashionable circles of Vienna measure their degrees of attention and politeness towards a foreigner by the quality of his carriage, footmen, and livery, and by the circumstance of the fashionableness or unfashion-

ableness of the street he lives in ; therefore you must be more than usually attentive in your selection of that which is here considered of so much importance. I recommend you to hire a carriage from *Janksy*, who lives at *Juden-Platz*, and accommodates the most distinguished foreigners in this way. Take him all in all, he is tolerably honest, and furnished us with a carriage, two good horses, and a coachman respectably equipped, at the rate of one hundred and eighty florins a month. If you wish to have a new carriage, the expense is two hundred florins a month ; but should you prefer your own carriage, and take only two horses and a coachman, the expense will be from one hundred and twenty to one hundred and forty florins a month. As the pavement in Vienna is miserably bad, and the coachmen exceedingly stupid, I would not advise you to use your own travelling carriage, as the difference is but trifling ; and should any accident happen to your own vehicle, you would find it difficult to have it well repaired again in this place.

In my next letter I shall attempt to give you some idea of the manners and society of this town.

LETTER VIII.

Society of VIENNA.—Prince de Ligne.—English in VIENNA.—Count Esterhazy.—Letters of Recommendation.—Theatres.—Balls.—Grand Concert.—The Empress.—General Ostermann.—Battle of LEIPSIG.—Climate.

Vienna, February 1814.

My stay in Vienna has, I trust, been sufficient to enable me to fulfil the promise I made you in my last. I have seen most of the society to which foreigners are admitted, owing in part to my letters of introduction, and partly to the kindness of some English noblemen, who did me the honour to introduce me to some families which they visited. But after all, I must confess that society here is of rather a limited description. You will naturally inquire, with some surprise, what can be the cause of this? I attribute it, in some measure, to the avaricious disposition of certain of the more wealthy families, who are very indifferent to strangers, except when their interest is concerned; while certain other fami-

lies are averse to be put out of their usual mode and routine of living.

The most welcome reception we met with was from some Polish families of distinction resident here, who are very attentive and hospitable to foreigners, and particularly to the English. If the traveller were allowed to form an opinion of the Polish ladies, from those who are this winter the life and ornament of the society of Vienna, I am sure he would pronounce that they are not only handsome, but possess the most amiable and prepossessing manners. The Countess Rosaly, who resides at the *Jacober Hoff*, keeps the best society in town : I had the honour of visiting her at least once a week, and found her as sensible as she is handsome. I was some weeks ago present at a masked ball which she gave ; it was a most delightful party, and several of the characters were admirably supported, particularly the part of a country-girl, which was sustained with much humour by the Countess Komar, a very amiable and handsome Polish lady ; who, as well as the Princess Lieubomirska, were very attentive to English travellers.

The worthy Prince de Ligne has much of

the gaiety of twenty under 'the burthen of fourscore;' he is the ornament of society, of which no one is more distinguished for politeness and affability; in a word, he is the most accomplished nobleman of this court. He keeps an open house every evening, on the *Schotten Bastey*, and his parties generally last from nine to midnight. Though the house he occupies is very small, yet most of the English of rank, and travellers of distinction from every nation, even Greeks not excepted, assemble there: a supper for ten to twelve persons is regularly served at eleven o'clock, and at this confined table I have more than once seen much bustle and squeezing. Such is his kindness and hospitality towards strangers, that should he hear of the arrival of any distinguished traveller, he will send him a general invitation to join his evening parties, during his stay in town. Of this liberal and generous disposition I had the honour to receive a personal proof. A ball was given during the carnival by the Russian ambassador, Count Stachelberg, to which, as I had not been regularly introduced to his excellency, I of course had no invitation. The Prince heard of this circumstance, and very

kindly offered to introduce me himself, which he did the following Monday. I had that day the honour of dining with him; after which he had the kindness to introduce me to the ambassador at the levee, which was held that evening previous to the Wednesday on which the ball was to take place.* His daughters, the Princess Clare, the Baroness Sprigel, and Countess Palfy, are most amiable and agreeable ladies; his grandson Count Clare is a well informed nobleman. The old princess generally sits very quiet at a small table, working embroidery, and seldom takes an active part in the conversation, the greatest share of which was monopolized by the Countess Pal——y, and a Mde. Odo——l, an adopted child of the prince: the first had a due share of wit and satire, the other of affectation.

It was at one of these parties that the following *jeux-d'esprit* were handed about, the author of which was at that moment supposed to form one of the company.

* This amiable prince died in 1815. His loss will throw a gloom over the society of Vienna, and will be sincerely felt by travellers of all nations.

Le Thermometre de Bonaparte.

Les alliés à soixante-dix degrés.

Les Anglois au point fixe.

L'Empereur Napoleon à la tempête.

Le sénat au dégel.

Le corps législatif en débacle.

Les maréchaux au tempéré.

Les armées à tous vents.

Le trésor public à zéro.

Le peuple au très sec.

L'enthousiasme public à dix degrés

Au-dessous de zéro.

Le Jardin de France.

On a replanté les lis en France,

Le sénat en est le jardinier ;

S'ils ne sont pas en abondance,

Ce n'est pas faute de fumier.

Le Testament de Bonaparte.

Je lègue aux enfers mon génie,

Mes exploits aux aventuriers ;

A mes partisans l'infâmie :

Le grand livre à mes créanciers :

Aux François l'horreur de mes crimes ;

Mon exemple à tous les Tyrans ;

La France à ses rois légitimes,

Et l'hôpital à mes parens.

A la Ville de Paris.

Un Corse ambitieux d'une audace profonde,
A regné trop long-tems, pour le malheur du monde ;
Elevé par le crime au rang des Empereurs,
Son règne d'un moment fut un siècle d'horreurs.
Depuis le jour fatal où son bras parricide
Enfonça dans nos cœurs, le poignard homicide,
Jour de deuil, qui devoit nous le rendre odieux,
Ce monstre à chaque instant devint plus furieux :
Que de maux il a fait à ma triste patrie !
Il vous a bien puni de votre idolatrie ;
Vous, François, enivrés de ses sanglants exploits,
Ce vil usurpateur du sceptre de nos rois,
Vous promet le bonheur.—Il comble vos misères,
Il a fait massacrer vos enfans et vos frères,
Le cruel a changé l'empire le plus beau,
En un champ de carnage, en un vaste tombeau :
Nos hameaux sont en pleurs, nos campagnes désertes.
Qui pourrait retracer nos malheurs et nos pertes ?
Sa rage immolant tout à son barbare orgueil,
Il fit gémir la France et la couvrit de deuil.
O reine des cités, qui trompait sa jactance,
Toi, dont l'aveuglement fit toute sa puissance,
Ouvre les yeux enfin, et punis ses forfaits,
Le monde attend de toi le repos et la paix.
Il ne sauroit jouir de ce bonheur suprême,
Tant que ton oppresseur souille le diadème :
Ose te déclarer contre ton assassin,
L'éternel ennemi de tout le genre humain,
Rappelle dans tes murs ton prince légitime ;
Ainsi toi, qui l'ouvris, tu vas fermer l'abîme,
Mettre un terme pour nous à de trop longs malheurs ;
Ainsi tu vas tarir la source de nos pleurs.

You are anxious that I should inform you of all the particulars respecting the manner in which your countrymen pass their time at the different places we visited. The following is an outline of the plan, if indeed so grave a word as *plan* may with propriety be used on such an occasion: the morning is spent in viewing the curiosities of the town, and all such objects, either of manufacture or of architecture, as are best worthy of the traveller's attention; after having thus *killed the lions* during the day, they either assemble at the Prince de Ligne's in the evening, or visit some of the circles of the Polish ladies before-mentioned.

I was several times at the tea parties given by Count Esterhazy, in the *Krüger Gasse*, which were as agreeable as they were select; and during the carnival he enlivened society with a masked ball once a week, which was crowded with all the fashion and elegance of Vienna. At one of these parties we admired the grace and spirit with which the Polish Prince Potoki and the Russian Princess Bagration danced the Cossack dance, the figures of which were as novel as the steps were curious. A Miss Fraser, the daughter of an

English lady, who has been some time a resident here, danced another Cossack dance, in the full costume of these northern warriors, and if the gracefulness of this lady could not rival that of the Russian princess, at least she did not yield to her in point of vivacity. Indeed, so expertly did she flourish the Cossack whip, that many of the company near her were very feelingly convinced of the spirit and efficacy of the performance. The Count's family occupies a very splendid hotel furnished in the most costly stile; the Countess is a lady of great elegance of person and of very fascinating manners. The Duchess of Sagan, a lady not less distinguished for her beauty than her amiable manners and ease of address, had a circle of fashionables every evening; her parties were certainly the most agreeable in Vienna, and though several of the prudes of this city thought themselves justified in criticizing some ladies who were admitted there, yet, I own, I am not disposed to be so censorious. I leave it to others to judge if the Countess F——s was more fond of English than of Austrian society, or whether Madame F——n was a prude or not: these are ques-

tions of far too delicate a nature for me to determine ; I am content to confine my observations to subjects of a more homely and plodding nature, subjects that may be practically useful to yourself, should you intend to visit Vienna.

Such was the agreeable society which I here found ; and I have dwelt thus minutely on the subject, in order that you may see the necessity of being prepared with letters of recommendation to some of these respectable families.

And here, Sir, let me tell you a secret : many recommendations, which sound very well in London, will be of little use to you when you come here ; I know this by experience. I obtained a letter from a nobleman to the Prince of —, who was at the head quarters of the Emperor ; on presenting my letter, I was received by the Princess, who, with several other ladies and gentlemen were engaged in the laudable occupation of making lint for the wounded soldiers. The room into which I was ushered was a very elegant kind of saloon, at one end of which stood a magnificent bed : I was not a little surprised that a princess should

receive company in her bed-room in an evening ; however, such was her taste. The nobleman who gave me the letter had, when he visited Vienna, borne a different title from that he does at present, and the alteration seemed to puzzle the princess most woefully, who observed that Englishmen changed their names so often it was impossible to know them again, and concluded with affecting not to recollect the nobleman's present name, intimating at the same time that she lived very retired. I prudently took the hint, and never returned to the mansion again ; but the fact is, that the family here alluded to is by no means remarkable for its attention to the English.

In addition to the information I have given you above, I must not forget to mention that the Countess Zichy, daughter to the Marschal Ferary, gives parties once a week, which cannot fail of being agreeable, since they are attended by the Countess Julia Zichy, one of the handsomest women in Vienna, and the Countess Sophia Zichy, one of the most accomplished ; indeed, they are both ladies of very superior talents : the former excels in a genius for poetry, and

the latter in a taste for music. The Prince Stahrenberg, formerly ambassador at the court of Great Britain, is also unremitting in his attention to foreigners, and particularly to the English. We had the honour of dining with him, and were charmed with his delightful family; they are all versed in the English language, particularly the Countess his daughter, who speaks it with the ease and fluency of a native. To the attractions of beauty this amiable lady unites the charms of superior mental accomplishments. Nor must I omit to mention the Count Francis Palfy, who is well known for the splendid entertainments he gives to foreigners, among whom the English do not hold the last place; I had the honour of dining several times at his house, and always met most of the English of distinction there. Although I know you care little about good dinners, yet let me recommend you not to fail being introduced to this nobleman, as he is famed for his hospitality.

There are besides many dinner parties given daily by a number of barons and counts, with whom this city abounds, too numerous to particularize, even if I

had not already indulged in these details, I fear, to a tedious degree of minuteness. But, as I said before, provided you have letters to some of the families I have enumerated, you will find it no difficult matter to get introduced to the rest of the fashionable world.

The ladies here, and particularly the Polish, are very fond of tales of wonder. It is no doubt from the encouragement and patronage given by these ladies, that Wieland, and many other writers, have met with such success. The Prince de Ligne did not seem to take less interest in such stories, nor was he less an adept in relating them, and giving their full effect to ghostly adventures.* Among other amusements which will astonish the gravity of Englishmen, was a species of lottery, at the Countess Rosalie's, at the *Jacob-Hof*, where it was at the option of each individual to put in some article, which when drawn out, should it chance to fall to the lot of any person to whom it was the least appropriate, caused no small diversion. The Mar-

* I never heard whether Monk Lewis's Tales have been translated into German; if they have not, it would be a good speculation for some publisher to furnish these ladies with them in their native language.

quis de Boney, now French ambassador at Copenhagen, was not a little celebrated for his extempore verses on each lot that was drawn, and which were sometimes very *à-propos*.

The long winter evenings were occasionally enlivened by private theatricals, at which the Prince de Ligne, in spite of his great age, acted the part of a lover, with all the tenderness, and with as fine-drawn sighs, as an innamorato of eighteen, while the Russian Princess R—y returned his vows with equal fervency. The game of *jeu de mots* was also frequently adopted to fill up the languid hours of the evening; but this, except by a few sighing swains, was found to be exceedingly tedious, or, to use the language of the day, a monstrous *bore*.

I was not forgetful of the old adage, ‘when at Rome do as Rome does,’ and therefore I joined with all possible glee in amusements that will make you smile. Among other pastimes, no small favourite was a kind of pantomimic representation of some remarkable scene in the ancient mythology. The subject was first agreed upon, as in the game of French proverbs, and the

company was to find out what scene was represented, and if it eluded their ingenuity, they were condemned in their turn to entertain the spectators. A description of one of these feats will serve to give you an idea of the rest. The story of Diana and Actæon was cast as follows: the Russian Princess Sar—y took the part of Diana, the Honourable Mr. L—— acted the character of her lover, while the Prince de Ligne supported the character of Actæon with great spirit; he gave his transformation into a stag with considerable effect, and I contented myself in the humble capacity of one of the pack which pursued him, which both myself and three other gentlemen did on all fours, to the no small amusement of the rest of the party.

The theatres here are well attended, and the music and performances very good. The best is the theatre on the *Wien*, which possesses by far the most complete orchestra and the best display of scenery. The *Burg Theatre* ranks the first in tragic and comic performances. The theatre at the *Kärntner-Thor* has a very noble and well conducted

orchestra ; on common nights they perform comedies and operatic pieces, but two evenings in the week are set apart for Italian operas. Kasper's, in the *Leopold Stadt*, is famous for burlesque operas and broad farces. The most fashionable is the theatre on the *Wien*, but Kasper's is the most frequented, particularly by the *bourgeois*. The great fault I had to find with all the theatres here is, that they are badly lighted, particularly that at the *Burg*. The prices for all these amusements are very reasonable ; the pit costs scarcely a florin, and for a box for seven persons, in the first tier of the theatre on the *Wien*, we paid only seven florins in paper, or about half a guinea English.

There are several public balls every Sunday evening, many of which are very well attended, particularly those at the *Salle d'Apollon*, and at the *Römische Kaiser*. These balls are never frequented by ladies of distinction or character, but only by the *bourgeoisie*. We visited the masked balls, which are very agreeably conducted ; they begin at eleven o'clock, and break up at about six in the morning. Most of the ladies go unmasked, and I am sorry to add that these entertainments are attended as

well by ladies of distinction as by those of inferior rank, and afford but too wide a field for mischief and intrigue. The saloons are well lighted, and the music excellent; and as I know you admire waltzing, you will here see it in its highest perfection. The nights that the court attends the society is more select, and the rooms more splendidly lighted and more superbly decorated. On one of these occasions we were present with a Hungarian nobleman, who is a chamberlain of his majesty. Among other things, he told us that the Emperor is known to have an uncommon good memory: that being one day on duty at his majesty's apartments, he had to announce an Hungarian nobleman, whose name was so very difficult to recollect, that at the moment it escaped his memory; the Emperor immediately observed, 'how can you forget to
' announce our old friend, who was here
' only three years ago?' and immediately addressed him by name.

Speaking with the same nobleman respecting the young Prince of Parma, he told us that many anecdotes concerning him are in circulation among the inhabitants, for the truth of which, however, he would not vouch.

Among others it is said that when the Prince de Ligne, one of the imperial marshals, was introduced to young Napoleon, he observed rather archly, ‘ *de grâce, mon Prince, êtes-vous un des maréchaux qui ont trahi mon père ?*’ On another occasion, remarking an elegant sword worn by an English nobleman at the levee, he laid his hand upon it, saying, ‘ *Milord, combien de François avez-vous tué avec ce sabre ?*’

On the 11th of October, 1813, we were present at the concert given at the Royal Riding School, at *Joseph Platz*, by the Philanthropic Society. The orchestra was very powerful, being composed of about seven hundred musicians, while the choir consisted of about two hundred performers of both sexes. They performed the ‘ *Creation*’ of Haydn in a very superior style. It was calculated that there were more than ten thousand spectators present on this interesting occasion, among whom were the most distinguished families of Vienna and its neighbourhood, and all the foreigners in the place. It was for the benefit of the wounded soldiers, and the widows and orphans of those who fell in the battles of their country; the price

of the gallery or boxes was six florins, the pit five, and the upper gallery two florins. I feel myself perfectly inadequate to give you any just idea of the power and overwhelming magnificence of the music ; one strong impression it left on my mind, and that was the degree of perfection to which this divine art has been carried in this country. The Empress, on her entrance, was received with thunders of applause ; and manifested in a very graceful manner her sense of the reception she met with, and of the pleasure she felt in the enthusiastic plaudits of so vast an audience. Her majesty was accompanied by the Countess O'Donnell, first lady of honour ; and I had afterwards the pleasure of visiting this lady, who communicated to me many traits of the great benevolence that distinguished her majesty's character : she appears to hate show and pomp, and scarcely lets a day pass unmarked by some act of charity or some office of benevolence.

The Emperor was absent at the head of his armies : his august presence was the only honour wanting to complete the magnificence of the spectacle.

The Russian general, Count Von Oster-

man, who in conjunction with the Russian guards made so gallant a defence of Prague against the French, and who lost his arm on that memorable day, was welcomed with loud peals of applause, which he received with great modesty and acknowledged in the most unaffected manner.

From the description here given, you will naturally be led to imagine that all was very gay and pleasant at Vienna ; yet the not far distant scene of warfare contributed to throw a damp over the festivities of the place, and on more than one occasion, I thought I could observe that gaiety sat with a very bad grace on many a countenance, and that not a few affected to be cheerful whose hearts were labouring under very different emotions ; indeed, how could it be otherwise, when many had their fathers, others their sons and relations, in the field, and in arms against a foe whose power they had before been taught to dread. But these feelings were in some measure relieved, by the grateful intelligence of the glorious victory obtained at Leipzig, the news of which was brought by the Count Woyna. He made his entry into the town, preceded by fifty *avant-*

couriers, who announced the joyous tidings they brought by the blowing of horns and the cracking of whips, sounds that were as loudly answered by the cheering shouts of the inhabitants. Several noblemen had received notice of his arrival, and had proceeded some distance from the town to meet him, so that the whole cavalcade formed a most imposing appearance. The garrison and the militia were all under arms, and had been drawn out to receive them. They rode direct to the imperial palace to announce their message, and present their dispatch to the Empress in due form. During the whole day the town was nothing but joy and boisterous merriment; but these feelings were soon checked by the consideration that the victory had been dearly purchased by the fate of so many gallant men.

The climate of Vienna, though variable, is both healthy and pleasant. The summers in Austria are delightful, with but little rain; the winters however are changeable: many days in January were quite warm and genial, when on a sudden the wind would change, it grew instantly cold, and heavy falls of snow succeeded.

The immediate vicinity of the town abounds with game of all kind, particularly hares, of which I saw a great number sporting in the field, even close to the fauxbourgs. Hunting forms a favourite amusement of the Austrian nobility; but it has not as yet reached that point of perfection which an English sportsman would require.

LETTER IX.

Churches of VIENNA.—Palaces and public Buildings.—The Prater.—Gardens of public Resort. — SCHÖNBRUNN. — Environs of VIENNA.—Conversation with a Banker.—Anecdote of the TYROLESE.—The Emperor.

Vienna, March 1814.

I WILL now fulfil my promise, and give you a description of the city of Vienna. It stands on the site of the ancient *Vendobona*, and is situated on the confluence of the rivers Danube and Wien, on a plain which stretches to some distance on the north of the Danube, pleasingly variegated with hills and wood to the south and west. The streets are generally narrow and dirty, and are deficient of that great accommodation, a side pavement. The most handsome among the streets are the *Herren Gasse*, which is lined with elegant mansions, the *Kohlgraben*, the *Graben*, and the *Kärntner Strasse*. The two last of these streets, contain the most splendid shops in Vienna,

and form the great lounge, between twelve and two o'clock, for the gay and elegant company of the place. It would fill a small volume to give a minute detail of all the grand buildings and establishments that adorn this capital; I shall content myself with describing a few of the principal. Among the churches, the cathedral of St. Stephen is the most conspicuous. It is built of free stone, after the model of St. Peter's at Rome, and contains thirty-eight altars; the spire has a remarkable inclination towards the north, and does not by any means impress the spectator with an idea of its security. When you visit this temple, do not fail to notice a very fine *Ecce Homo* from the hand of Corregio, as well as the magnificent columns of the high altar, and the tombs of Frederick and Prince Eugene. We were particularly fortunate in seeing this temple splendidly lighted up during the holy week, when the bishop and all the clergy went in grand procession. During this period all the churches are open the whole day, and the inhabitants are continually flocking from one church to another. I am sorry to say, that such a degree of decorum is not always observed on these occasions as places of

worship require, and that an English nobleman, whom I accompanied thither, had his pockets picked of a valuable snuff-box.

The churches of St. Michael and St. Augustin, in the latter of which are the tombs of Field-marshal Daun and Van Swisten, are worthy of your attention; as is also the church of the Capucins, which contains the monuments of the Austrian princes. St. Rupert, too, deserves a visit, as a curious piece of antiquity, and St. Charles, from the elegance of its architecture. After the Burg, or imperial palace, which is one of the finest buildings in the town, the other pieces of architecture best deserving your notice are the palace of the princes, the imperial chancery, the extensive hospital, the mint, the museum, the bank, and the custom-house. Nor must you neglect the imperial and the citizens' arsenal; in the latter you are shewn the head of Kara Mustapha, a grand Vizier, who was taken at the siege of Belgrade, and strangled in a very summary way on that occasion.

The imperial library is a noble establishment; it is rich in literary curiosities, containing from five to six thousand volumes, the productions of the presses of the fifteenth

century, a considerable number of valuable manuscripts, and a very extensive collection of modern literature. Here also you will admire the celebrated clock, constructed on the principles of the perpetual motion. It is said the French intended to carry this off, as one of the spoils of their triumph, and were only deterred by the difficulty of conveying it away. The cabinet of medals is also exceedingly rich. I must not fail to acquaint you that, besides the national museum, there are many private collections of natural history, which are extremely valuable, and which in some places would be considered as worthy of the name of national treasures.

Among the palaces of the nobility, the most remarkable are that of the Prince Lichtenstein, which boasts a very choice collection of paintings, and those of the Princes Esterhazy, Stahrenberg, and Rosomowsky.* In addition to these may be mentioned the noble mansions of Prince Lobkowitz, Count Friese, and the archbishop.

* The author is sorry to learn, that a part of the palace belonging to the latter was lately destroyed by fire.

The imperial riding-school is esteemed one of the finest in Europe, and it is here that the great concerts are usually given. Nor must I omit the barracks, the military academy, and the schools of medicine and surgery. The architecture of the grand chancery of the empire is much esteemed for its elegant and tasteful design, and not much inferior in splendour are the chanceries of Austria and Bohemia, and that of the war department. The gymnasium, the academy of the fine arts, and the university, founded in 1365, must not be neglected. Vienna can boast of many fine squares: *der Joseph's Platz* is the most conspicuous, it is ornamented with a fine equestrian statue of Joseph the Second, by the celebrated Zauner; but several others are adorned with beautiful fountains: the most remarkable are that by Donner in *der Neue Markt*, that at the *Hohen Markt*, and the new fountain in *Franciscaner Platz*.

The manufactories of this place are in a tolerably flourishing condition, and deserve the traveller's attention, particularly those of ribbands, silk, silver lace, &c. and above all that for imperial porcelain.

The walks and rides about Vienna are very numerous: the most frequented is the bastion, which lies between the *Kärntner* and the *Burg-Thor*; from the hours of twelve till two on a Sunday it is crowded with the gay and the fashionable. The usual hour of dinner is between two and three o'clock, so that the inhabitants flock out in the afternoon, and then the *Prater* is the attractive promenade for all the elegance and beauty of Vienna. The imperial family generally frequent it, and I have counted more than a hundred and fifty elegant equipages lining the sides of the walk. It was here that I had the gratification of seeing the Empress several times, in a phaeton driven by the Crown Prince. Among other dashing equipages was that of the Prince Trautmansdorf, the grand master of the ceremonies, who sports an elegant phaeton and two beautiful greys. One side of the *Prater* is lined with coffee-houses, and frequented by bourgeois and ladies of the second order.

The drive to the *Lust-haus* is also very fashionable. This place is about three English miles from the *Prater*, and presents some very extensive and romantic views: I could distinctly discern from it the mountains of

Hungary stretching in long perspective to the east. There is no spot in the neighbourhood more pleasant for little rustic excursions ; nor more frequented by those who love occasionally to break through the formality and routine of domestic arrangements, and to enjoy a country breakfast or a rural dinner.

The *Auergarten* is also a place of great attraction during the fine spring months : it is an extensive garden, the walks of which are laid out with great taste, and the scene enlivened by some very well conducted concerts ; there is also a very good *restaurateur* for the accommodation of visitants. This place contains some very pleasing scenery, and commands a variety of noble and interesting views of the capital and its neighbourhood.

The environs of Vienna are very agreeable, and merit particular attention ; especially Schönbrunn, with its magnificent palace and extensive gardens. There is also a botanical garden, kept in very good order by the director, Mr. Von Bosch, a gentleman of great merit and urbanity of manners ; he is besides a great traveller, and has enriched the garden with many very rare and curious plants from

the East-Indies. Mr. Von Bosch is very polite and attentive to strangers, and seemed to take a real pleasure in personally accompanying us and showing the botanical curiosities of the place. It was here that Napoleon resided during his stay at Vienna; he seldom chose to take up his abode in the town, and gave the preference to this palace. On the top of a hill in the garden, and fronting the place, stands a splendid summer-house, built by the Emperor Joseph: you ascend to it by a magnificent flight of steps, and under a covered walk enjoy some of the most beautiful and extensive prospects imaginable.

The village of Dörfach, at the distance of half a German mile from Vienna, is remarkable for its interesting and romantic scenery. I would particularly recommend you not to neglect an excursion to the delightful village of Rodaun, at the distance of only one post from the capital; its beauty of situation, and the combination of interesting scenery which it presents, will amply repay you for the visit. This place is frequented on account of its baths and mineral waters. The domain belongs to a Count Fuchs, brother of the Count of the same name

in Vienna, who has a noble palace and a fine garden belonging to it. From a hill behind the house there are some of the noblest and most extensive views in Germany.

Besides this village, the neighbouring hamlets of Brühl, Petersdorf, and Lichtenstein, contribute much, by their beauty of landscape and situation, to enhance the gay and lively appearance of the environs of Vienna, while at the same time they afford the most delightful rides.

Baden, which lies three German miles from the capital, is a fashionable place, to which the higher classes resort during the summer months, to drink the mineral waters; it is situated at the foot of a romantic hill, is well built, and can boast of that which too many towns of the continent are deficient in, broad and well paved streets. The walks in the environs of the town are delightful, and are not the least among the many attractions that draw such numerous visitants. The best bath is the *Josepbad*; the charge is very moderate, being only thirty-six kreutzers, or about fourteen pence each. I tasted the mineral water, and found it very strongly impregnated with sulphur. There is a good theatre here :

the society in general is very elegant, and much hospitality is shown towards strangers. We found one deficiency, however, the want of a regular post-house ; and were necessitated to hire horses from Vienna, which we did at the rate of twenty florins for the day. We were yesterday informed by our banker, that the scarcity of specie was so great, that for a hundred florins in cash he could get three hundred and twenty florins in paper ; nay, that it might sink even to four hundred, for he observed, that money and patriotism were equally scarce in this country. ‘ It is true,’ said he, ‘ we are poor, yet there are still some very wealthy individuals here ; but none of them come forward voluntarily to assist their country in this time of distress. An advantage even is taken of the present state of affairs, and some great personages do not think it beneath them to speculate largely in the public funds.’ Among other observations upon the army, he added that the Hungarians were patriots and good soldiers, and strongly attached to their sovereign ; that the general opinion throughout Austria was, that there were too many French and Italians employed in government offices. ‘ Our city,’

said he, with a significant look, ‘ contains many
 ‘ French spies, and not a few houses of certain
 ‘ ladies who rank high in society are the ren-
 ‘ dezvous for these characters, where the con-
 ‘ duct of the last French government is openly
 ‘ praised. In these circles, too, it is indus-
 ‘ triously insinuated that a minister of his ma-
 ‘ jesty is a deep politician, and, like a certain
 ‘ French actor, can cry with one eye and laugh
 ‘ with the other. Our emperor is much liked,’
 continued he, ‘ because he is affable and
 ‘ friendly to his subjects, and is known to be
 ‘ an enemy to luxury.’ As a proof how much
 his sovereign was esteemed in the Tyrol, he
 related the following circumstance : ‘ our go-
 ‘ vernment,’ he observed, ‘ wanted to raise a
 ‘ levy in the Tyrol ; this being known to the
 ‘ Tyrolese, they sent a deputation hither, pray-
 ‘ ing his majesty that the government would
 ‘ not persist in their demands, as their country
 ‘ was even then deficient in men to cultivate
 ‘ it : but should his majesty need it, they were
 ‘ ready to rise to a man in defence of their so-
 ‘ vereign and country. The Emperor received
 ‘ them graciously, and the object of their pe-
 ‘ tition was granted. I am proud to assure you,’
 added he, ‘ that we are not less attached to our

‘ Emperor than the Tyrolese ; for at the un-
‘ fortunate epoch when our armies lost several
‘ battles, the Emperor returned one evening to
‘ the capital in a private carriage, anxious to
‘ avoid being seen by the inhabitants, who
‘ during the whole day crowded the streets
‘ leading to the palace. As soon however as his
‘ arrival was known, they all ran to the palace,
‘ and though the guards had orders not to let
‘ any person enter, they stormed the avenues
‘ and cleared their way by force, exclaiming,
‘ ‘ no one under heaven shall prevent us from
‘ ‘ seeing our beloved Emperor ! ’ They ac-
‘ tually entered the royal apartments, where
‘ their sovereign, overcome by this display of
‘ noble and patriotic feeling, and filled with
‘ the warmth of a father towards his children,
‘ received them in tears, and condescended to
‘ shake hands with many of the good citizens.’

What our banker related of the Crown Prince does not manifest less benevolence than that above recorded of his royal father. Wishing to present his tutor with a testimony of the sense he had of his attentions, he is said to have spared sufficient money from his private purse to purchase a beautiful saddle horse, with which he presented him.

We are preparing for a trip into Hungary ; on my return I shall give you all the information I can collect respecting that country, which is but little known, as it has been visited only by few travellers.

LETTER X.

Excursion to HUNGARY.—Devastations of the DANUBE.—Costume and Manners of the HUNGARIANS.—Peasantry.—Singular Traits in their Character.—Their Privileges.—Produce of the Country.—Inns.—Antiquities.—RAAB.—Picturesque Scenery.—PEST.—BUDA.—GRATZ.—Manners and Costume of the Inhabitants.—Environs of the Town.—Castle.—Contest between the AUSTRIANS and FRENCH.—Climate.—Romantic Scenery.—Posting.—BRUCK.—SCHOTTWIEN.—NEUSTADT.

Vienna, March 1814.

WE are just returned from our excursion to Buda, the ancient metropolis of Hungary. In our way thither we passed through the towns of Deutsch-Altenburg, Kittsee, Raab, Nessmuhl, and Offen. Few things, in the whole of my tour, have afforded me more pleasure, owing to the peculiar character of the country and the singularity of various

scenes which I witnessed. If you have the opportunity, I must beg of you not to neglect a visit to this country, as I am sure you will find it full of interest.

The road from Vienna to Raab is good, and the country on each side of us presented an aspect of richness and fertility. The greater part of the country is one continual and unvaried plain, offering but too many melancholy scenes of ruin and devastation. Man and nature indeed have both been active agents in this work of destruction. The French under Napoleon, those devastators of every land, have not let this distant and secluded region escape their rapacity. The other source of mischief is the Danube, which often overflows its banks, and lays waste the country. In the years 1812 and 1813 its ravages were particularly destructive: it swept whole villages away, and so sudden was its rise, that the people were compelled to fly and abandon their property: many of the inhabitants also perished on this melancholy occasion. We saw the ruins of many bridges which had been swept away during these inundations, and whole fields were still under water.

The usual dress of the peasants of Hungary

is a great coat of goat's skin, and sometimes of cloth, very wide pantaloons of coarse linen trimmed with red and black, blue waistcoats profusely embroidered and ornamented with a quantity of small white buttons, shirts with very wide loose sleeves, buskins, a small round hat, and frequently a cap made of skin with a rim of iron to fit the head: this latter curious article they call a *kalpag*. They also wear large formidable mustachios, with long black hair flowing over their shoulders; they shave but seldom, perhaps once a fortnight, and altogether present a very fierce and forbidding appearance. They are not less strangers to cleanliness in their dwellings than in their persons, but they are industrious, and inured to hardships and privations from their very cradle; it is therefore no wonder that they should be fond of war. They are remarkably serious in their aspect; you may pass whole villages without seeing a single person laugh. Among such a strange race as this one is not surprised to find, nay, one is almost prepared to hear of robbers and banditti; and these anticipations will be found but too truly realized. I have learnt that there are entire villages inhabited by wretches

of this description: but I must not omit to tell you that they differ from common highwaymen in this particular—they rob only certain descriptions of people. They generally live in the woods, and a great part of them are a kind of herdsmen, who tend large droves of hogs and rear great numbers of horses. They are very inveterate against the Jews, and if they happen to meet one on the road they never let him pass without robbing him. If a traveller is so fortunate as to be able to converse with them in their native tongue, he may be sure to escape without being molested.

The village of Csokonya, in the district of Somogy, which belongs to Count Szecheny, is full of these robbers. They eat great quantities of animal food, and are very liberal in the use of wine, which is here very cheap: fortunately, however, they are not fond of brandy and ardent spirits.

I was assured by a nobleman of distinction, a native of this country, that some of the peasants who devote their lives to rearing horses, have never seen a house, and are perfectly ignorant of its use or construction. They boast of their

dexterity in stealing the horses of their neighbours and disposing of them at the next fair ; which facts are frequently not unknown to their masters, who, though they do not openly countenance the fraud, yet tacitly do so by neglecting to punish the offence : but they think it a sufficient motive to be lenient, if these jockies are clever in their profession, and in other respects do their duty. You would be surprised to hear that there is neither disease nor sickness among this people, were I not to inform you that it is the custom, if one of them falls sick, and becomes a burthen to his friends, to feel no remorse in dispatching him, to get him out of the way. They are passionately fond of horse-racing, and all kinds of gymnastic exercises ; in their estimation the utmost effort of human genius is to manage a restive and ungovernable horse. Almost all the Hungarians understand and speak Latin ; they are known for their patriotic spirit and warm attachment to their native land ; and one good quality they possess in a superior degree, they are very hospitable to strangers. On many occasions I remarked that their hatred to the Germans was as sincere as their

aversion to the poor Hebrew race, to which I have above alluded.

With respect to the peasantry, their situation is very different from that state of villainage under which their Polish neighbours groan. When they have compleated their term of duty, and fulfilled the engagements contracted with the nobleman under whom they serve, he has no longer any power over them, and they are quite at liberty to dispose of themselves or their property as they judge best. The duties to which they are subject are as follow. If a man be a compleat peasant, that is if he can prove himself master of twelve oxen, six horses, and three men, to cultivate his lands, he is obliged either to work himself, or to send one of his men to work on the nobleman's land one hundred and four days out of the three hundred and sixty-five, if without a horse; or fifty-two days if he employs either his horse or waggon; and besides this service, the landlord has a claim to a tithe of all his produce. There is no law to oblige the tenantry to pay any regular contribution to the Emperor, but they are compelled to work for him twelve days every year, or six with horses,

and to furnish him with oats for the army at a very moderate price ; yet even this low sum they have no small difficulty in obtaining. Should the peasant refuse to do his duty, the landlord may summon him before the magistrate of the district, or before a committee of the country, to make him answer for his negligence or misconduct ; but he cannot himself, as has been wrongly supposed, inflict any corporal punishment on the offender. Such an attempt would render the landlord liable to be cited before the tribunal of his country, and expose him to a fine proportioned to the violence of the outrage : nay, the peasant has the privilege to accuse any landlord who should attempt to exact more than his right of service.

The principal products of Hungary are corn, wine, wool, &c. The cattle of every kind is remarkably fine, and the horses well proportioned and strong. Some parts of the country abound with forests of oak, and it is in general tolerably well wooded.

The inns in the villages and small towns of Hungary are uniformly bad ; the accommodation, if by such a name it may be called, is miserable. Cleanliness is a blessing unknown

in them, and, as it may be supposed, the fare is no better. If you can manage to live upon badly cured bacon and pork, sour wine, black and half-baked bread, you may do; but this is nearly the whole bill of fare of the luxuries you are likely to obtain at these places. Some of the inns belong to the noblemen of the country, who live in or near the villages, and it must be owned that these are somewhat better, and a little more decent than the rest.

Between Deutsch-Altenburg and Haynburg there are some remains of Roman antiquities, which deserve attention. The town of Kittsee contains nothing worthy of notice, and is only remarkable for giving its name to that convenient German carriage called a *kutsche*, which was invented at this place. There is indeed a palace here, the residence of some Hungarian prince, but it contains nothing very remarkable.

We stopped a night at Raab, a fortified town, situated on the confluence of the river Raab and Rabnitz. It is badly built, and though the streets are tolerably broad, they are miserably paved, and have no raised *pavée* for the benefit of the foot passenger.

It is said to contain about twelve thousand inhabitants. The market-place is spacious, and there are some tolerably good buildings round it. This town suffered much by the French, who destroyed the bastions and levelled the ramparts of the place. The cathedral is built on an eminence, and is almost the only picturesque object in the town: the interior is very rich, and is adorned with fine paintings; the superb decorations of the high altar are said to have cost more than thirty thousand florins. The town is surrounded by an immense plain, the soil of which is very rich. Here we had the rare satisfaction of finding a tolerable inn, which was cleanly, compared to those we had lately quitted, and the people were very civil.

The road from this place to Buda is pretty good, except at the distance of about eight German miles, where you pass a chain of lofty mountains that border upon the Danube. Here it is not only very bad, but the deep ruts and inequalities are such that many carriages are upset, principally through the stubbornness and stupidity of the drivers, who pay attention to any thing rather than to caution and good advice.

The bursts of scenery presented from this defile are at once beautiful and magnificent. In passing this place, it is advisable, as a matter of caution, to get out of the carriage and walk; you will gain the twofold advantage of exposing yourself to less danger, and of being enabled more calmly to contemplate the scenery that is continually varying with the windings of the road. On one side is a chain of barren but magnificent mountains, and on the other the mighty Danube pouring its rapid stream through a rich and picturesque country. On the opposite side of the river, the eye wanders over a wide-spreading and extensive tract of country, pleasingly diversified by villages and farm-houses.

Pest is a large thriving town; the streets are well paved and adorned with many handsome edifices, and indeed every part of it presents an aspect of improvement. Some new buildings are carrying on in almost every street, and I doubt not but in less than twenty years it will have expanded into a very noble town. We visited the hospital of the invalids, a large and elegant structure; also the barracks, the convent,

and the museum, where there is an extensive and valuable collection of medals. The new German theatre is a tasteful building, and its interior particularly neat and chaste; but the Hungarian play-house is small and miserable. We admired a noble bridge over the Danube, which is about a quarter of a German mile in length; the buttresses are obliged to be very strongly secured, as the river in this place flows with amazing rapidity. The Greek church, near this bridge, is very rich; its high altar is decorated with a profusion of large silver lamps. An extensive coffee-house was formerly kept here, but the establishment has been broken up. They have built a range of very fine houses near the bridge; a single edifice fills nearly the whole side of one of the streets, and presents a very imposing appearance. We put up at the inn called *Die fünf Churfürsten*; the accommodations are good, and it has the advantage of a very excellent coffee-room.

The inhabitants are hospitable and attentive towards strangers. The ladies are renowned for their beauty, but unfortunately their personal charms are their only ornaments, as their education is in general

very much neglected. A great number of Greek merchants have settled here, who are engaged in the Levant trade, and forward its interests in Germany and the more northern nations.

Buda or Offen, which was formerly called Sicambria, is situated on the east side of the bridge over the Danube, and is a very long town, consisting almost entirely of one single street. It is in general badly built, and the houses are low, few exceeding two stories in height: the main street is broad, but miserably paved.

We visited the objects most worthy of attention, among which the principal are the university and the royal palace. The latter is delightfully situated on the brow of a hill, which commands a noble and extensive view of the city and its environs. It was inhabited by a Russian princess, who during her residence there fitted it up in a superior manner, furnishing it with many articles of costly workmanship, and otherwise adding much to its decoration. Near the palace is an ancient bath, supplied by a mineral spring, which merits the traveller's attention, as do also the warm baths constructed on the Danube

by the Turks. They are well kept, and appear to be much frequented by the inhabitants.

At no great distance from the palace rises the *Blocksberg*, a lofty hill which is covered with houses and overlooks a small town, called *Griechen Stadt*, extended at its foot. We visited this place and ascended part of the hill to enjoy the vast extent of prospect which it commanded. We also went to see several old and curious chapels and churches in Buda; some of which are very rich, and the old chapel near the bath remarkable for its antiquity. This town is noted for its extensive market for horses; the population is estimated at about 28,000 inhabitants.

From Buda we proceeded to Gratz, by a road not so good, nor the country so rich as from Raab to Buda, and passed a considerable range of hills which appeared perfectly barren. The post houses on this road are badly kept, and the postilions do just as they please, without any fear of the postmasters; evils which are but too common throughout every part of Hungary. We found it necessary to order the horses some time before we started, as the drivers were very dilatory in their movements and

lazy in their habits. I mentioned in my former letter that there are general regulations respecting the charges; but these rules are not at all attended to, and their demands are quite arbitrary, so that it is necessary to be on your guard against imposition.

We were much delighted with our short stay at Gratz: it is a fine fortified town, situated on the Muer, and in the general features of its buildings is not unlike Vienna. The houses are high, but the streets narrow and without any foot pavement. The appearance of the town is cheerful and inviting to the traveller on more than one account: its natural situation is delightful, and the inhabitants are remarkable for their politeness and attention towards strangers. The women are generally handsome, and much noticed for the taste and neatness displayed in their head-dresses and bonnets; the latter are of white crape, tied with long red ribbands, that are thrown with graceful negligence over the shoulder and float down to the waist. So far do the inhabitants carry their politeness, that they stile every respectable looking traveller, "*Ihre Gnaden*," your grace, or most gracious lady; and in receiving

any thing they usually kiss the hand. I could not help smiling at seeing the postilion extend the same act of respectful homage to the servant of my friend Mr. Maxwell. The latter was an unceremonious Scotchman, who, as he was unaware of the custom of the country, and unused to such extreme politeness, imagined that the poor postilion wished to insult him ; but no intimations could induce the other to relax from his accustomed politeness, and he was obliged to submit to the ceremonious salute, though not without a suffusion of blushes. Such, however, is the effect which homage of every kind has on the mind, and so soon do we learn to know our own importance, that afterwards the blushing Scotchman imperiously reached out his hand for his vassals to kiss, with as much gravity and consequence as the cross-embroidered slipper of the Vatican itself is extended to the kneeling suppliant.

We paid a visit to the Burg palace, a curious old structure, and were shewn the crown of the Styrian dukedom which is preserved there : and among other objects of curiosity we did not fail to visit the arsenal and the university. Here is also an ex,

tensive college which belonged to the Jesuits, a good public library and observatory. The town-house, and the *Lamprechthof*, are fine buildings; the theatre is small, but the interior neat. The walks around the town are kept in excellent order, and delightfully overshadowed by rows of fine trees, which during the mornings and evenings of summer afford a refreshing promenade to the inhabitants.

The environs of Gratz are very picturesque and present a variety of beautiful scenery, the chain of mountains by which it is surrounded forming a magnificent background to the picture. This place had not escaped the ravages of the Danube; the bridge was carried away, and many houses near the river Muer suffered considerably: they were repairing these damages when we visited it. The castle stood on a towering eminence, and was so impregnable from the nature of its situation, that, during the last war, 1,500 Austrians defended it against nearly 12,000 Frenchmen; they held out bravely to the last, and would never have surrendered, had it not been so stipulated in the armistice which the Emperor of Austria was unfortu-

nately obliged to conclude. Shortly afterwards the French, mortified at the resistance they had met with from such a handful of men, demolished the castle and blew up the fortifications, so that what was considered one of the strongest places in Europe is now only a heap of ruins. In visiting this place, it is worth while to ascend the mountain on which the castle stood ; the toil will be amply repaid in beholding the bold and extensive views which it presents of the neighbouring towns, villages, and farms, mingled in harmonious confusion, and inclosed in a mighty barrier of mountains, whose tops, during the greater part of the year, and some even during the whole summer, are covered with snow.

During our stay at Gratz we put up at *die Sonne*, a commodious inn, supplied with a very good *table d'hôte*.

We went to see several fine gardens near the town, and were shown the house which Louis Bonaparte inhabited : it is very neat and agreeably situated. The adjoining building was occupied by a Russian princess.

The climate is very healthy, though the summers are remarkably hot ; the soil is productive, and the town supplied with all

kinds of vegetables and fruits of the best quality and in the greatest profusion. A species of white wine is also produced in the neighbourhood, but it is of rather an inferior quality. Several considerable manufactures of steel, silk, &c. are carried on here; and the epicures of Vienna are largely supplied with a fine breed of turkies from this place, for which it is famous.

The road from Gratz to Vienna is very excellent, and the country one of the most romantic in Europe; if therefore you are an admirer of the beauties of nature I would strongly invite you to take this route. On one side of the road rise immense mountains, partly covered with snow; on the other extend smiling meadows watered with refreshing rivulets, regaling the eye with the most luxuriant verdure. Indeed, it is this perpetual contrast of mountain and valley, of barrenness and vegetation, which renders these scenes so enchanting. The beauties of nature thicken as you approach the village of Merzzuschlag, and I have little hesitation in pronouncing this one of the most delightful spots I ever beheld. We passed the chain of the Samering mountains, which divides Styria from Austria: on

its top we observed a large pyramid with a Latin inscription, mentioning the different divisions of the country. The inns, even in the smallest villages, are neat and comfortable, and the wearied traveller is always sure of finding good accommodations. The posts, however, on this, as on the other roads, are badly kept, and should you wish to travel expeditiously, you must send an express for horses the day before your arrival, otherwise you may be detained for nearly half a day together.

We passed several neat towns, and among others Bruck on the Muer, where we found a good inn. Should you have any time to spare, it will not be ill bestowed in viewing the old palace and barracks. We were surprised and shocked in this neighbourhood to see the inhabitants, and particularly the women, with *goîtres* on their necks. The cause of this protuberance has been attempted to be accounted for in various ways: some think it is in consequence of the air from the mountains by which the town is surrounded; but the more probable conjecture is, that it is owing to the nature of the water they drink.

Schottwien was the next small town we passed, where we also found very comfortable

accommodations at the post-house. On quitting this place we found ourselves entirely hemmed in with mountains, and after rather a dreary and fatiguing journey, we reached Neustadt, a small but neat town with a comfortable inn.

You must not expect another letter from me till we reach Trieste, from which place we intend to embark for Corfu. I hope our journey will afford me something worth communicating.

LETTER XI.

*Departure for TRIESTE.—LILLIENFELD.—
 MARIENZELL.—Pilgrims, and singular Ob-
 ject of their Veneration.—LEOBEN.—Inter-
 resting Valley of SÖVISHOEN.—CLAGEN-
 FURT.—LOEBEL Mountains.—LAYBACH.—
 Arrival at TRIESTE.—Inhabitants.—Hotels.
 —Description of the Town.—English Con-
 sul.—Grotto of CORGNALE.—POLA.*

Trieste, June 1814.

My last letter shewed how much we were pleased with our journey through part of Styria; the remainder of our excursion to Trieste was not less agreeable. It is a turnpike road, and kept in good repair. The country is in general very rich and fertile, though the greater part is very hilly. We passed several large but inferior towns on our way. The country from Lillienfeld, a small neat town, is so hilly, that the postmasters oblige every traveller to take extra horses for the next three miles: we were obliged to pay two florins for each horse, and

thirty *kreutzers* to the postilion. We were much pleased with a small town called Marienzell, situated in a most delightful and romantic spot, on the brow of a commanding eminence, with stupendous mountains towering around it; most of whose summits were covered with snow. The valley that extends at the foot of the town is beauty and fertility itself.

Here we beheld a spectacle that at once interested and surprised us. The road leading to the town, as well as the streets of the place, were covered with pilgrims, who had come from various parts of the Austrian dominions, attracted by the sanctity of the church. They marched in procession, two and two, with their heads uncovered, and according to their seniority, and were headed by one of the oldest among them, who carried a large black wooden cross. Parties kept together of about sixteen in number, and were followed by the female pilgrims, who proceeded in the same order. They were of various ages, and many of them very old. The whole body united with much earnestness in chaunting hymns, which if not very musical, were certainly

very loud. We stopped several on the road, to inquire whence they came and what was their object? they informed us that their party was from a village in Hungary, which is some hundreds of English miles from this place. During the time of their pilgrimage they live very frugally, and generally walk barefooted; many of the old men seemed to be great sufferers by the fatigues of this religious campaign. Our curiosity led us to view the church which was the object of their devotion; it was not only filled, but surrounded by bands of these devotees, who waited for their turn with patient perseverance. They were obliged to walk in barefooted, and on reaching a particular spot they knelt and kissed a large plain cane, deposited on one of the altars of the church, which is a large gloomy building without much ornament. On our enquiring the reason for the veneration shewn to this cane, we were informed that it had belonged to a priest, who came, once upon a time, to this spot, mounted on a white horse, and remained six weeks praying and fasting, and—such was the belief—during the whole time never felt the want of food. Not satisfied with these

hardships and privations, the story goes that he mutilated both himself and his horse, for it would seem that he was resolved his faithful animal should, like himself, lay some claim to the honours of canonization. After the priest's death they found and preserved his cane, which, though an hundred and sixty years old, was still in blossom, like a tree in spring; at least so the faithful believers assured us; but our heretical eyes were denied the privilege of beholding these miraculous blossoms, and were only indulged with the sight of a natural, plain, and simple cane.

The church was erected on the spot, in honour of this pious priest; and if you smile with me at the superstition and ignorance of these honest peasants, I know you will also blush at the connivance which is shewn, by the nobility and magistrates of the district, to such a display of weakness and folly. What a disgrace to the present enlightened age, that a superstitious and misguided people should be allowed to quit their homes, neglect the important duties of life, and ramble several hundreds of miles, for the purpose of kissing a cane!

The next town of any interest we passed was Leoben, which is rendered memorable from the circumstance that in a garden near the town the Emperor of Austria concluded a peace with Napoleon. The houses, though low, have a neat and cleanly appearance. We were enchanted by the romantic views and singular contrasts of scenery that presented themselves in the valley of Sövischoer. One side of the road is bordered by mountains, which were often topped with snow; the other side presents beautiful vallies, adorned with the most luxuriant vegetation, and refreshed by streams which descend from the mountains in many a picturesque cascade. We were informed that during the winter these rocky recesses are infested with wolves, and other wild beasts, which sometimes have been known to make terrible incursions into the vallies, but fortunately these ravages are but rare. If we may judge from the sickly appearance of the inhabitants near the town of Judenburg, the climate cannot be very healthy. There is a great scarcity of cattle in these parts, owing to the deficiency of pasturage and the bad air; nevertheless, there is a good and

numerous breed of horses in the neighbourhood.

We were much pleased with Clagenfurt, which is a considerable town surrounded by strong walls. The palace, which is in an ancient style of architecture, the establishment for soldiers' orphans, the town-hall, and the new palace, are the principal buildings worthy the traveller's attention. The public square is adorned with two statues of excellent workmanship, representing Prince Leopold and the Empress Maria Theresa. We took up our quarters at the post-house, which is a very comfortable inn, and where every attention was shown us.

You will be obliged to take extra horses in your journey up the Leobel mountains; we were four hours in ascending them, and two hours on our descent. The road is in many places bordered by frightful precipices, which are not protected by any parapet wall to prevent accidents to carriages, in case the horses should happen to take fright. The view from the summit is commanding and grand in the extreme. The country lay as a vast map at our feet, and the sky was so clear that we could distinctly see the mountains that rise

in the neighbourhood of Salzburg, a distance of nearly forty English miles. While travelling at the foot of the mountain we had been nearly suffocated by the intensity of the heat; but the air was so chilling on the summit, that we were obliged to have recourse to our great coats. I have seen few things more singular than the contrast that here presented itself. The spot where we stood was dreary and desolate; the snow lay very deep on the mountain, and the only living thing to be seen was the raven, who sat solitary on the pine, and perfectly harmonized with the desolation of the scene; but cast the eye to the spot that we had just quitted, and all was sunshine and the image of beauty and of spring. The transition was as sudden and as extraordinary as if we had been transported from the glow of an Italian summer to the horrors of a Russian winter. We stood encircled by snow, by rocks, and by sterility, while in the distance the eye glanced upon a fairy land of beauty and verdure. We halted at an inn in the middle of the mountains, where travellers stop and give their horses time to breathe: here we thought it a luxury to get a warm by the kitchen fire, but our postilion

fancied it a still greater luxury to enjoy his warmth internally by taking his favourite *schnapps* or dram.

We stopped a day at Laybach, or Laubach, a fine fortified town on a river of the same name; though few of the houses are more than one or two stories high, yet the streets are tolerably broad and well paved. We admired the market-place, which is spacious and well laid out. The castle stands on a high hill, and is very strongly fortified both by nature and art. The French maintained themselves in this fortress for some time after the town had surrendered, and did considerable damage by firing upon the houses, several of which still retain the marks of the cannon balls. The finest churches are the cathedral of St. Nicholas and the church of St. Peter, which is in the suburbs. The arsenal, the town-hall, the palace of Count Auersperg, and the military hospital, are the most considerable buildings of the town. The theatre is open during the winter months, and many masked balls are given at the time of the Carnival. The post-house is considered as the best inn in the place.

To such as may visit Laybach, I recom-

mend to make a little excursion to Idria, renowned for its famous mines of quicksilver. The distance is pleasant, the road good, and the accommodations at the inn, called the *Great Inn*, excellent. We were stopped but a few minutes at the custom-house, as one or two florins to the officers prevented us from suffering any inconvenience. The way from Laybach to Trieste, although hilly, is very agreeable; it is a turnpike road and kept in very good order. The soil in this part is rich and the country well cultivated. You will find the views from the Karst, near Trieste, extensive and enchanting.

On reaching the latter place we were much pleased with the first aspect it presented. We put up at the *Grande Locande*, fronting the market-square. This inn had the advantage of a good *table d'hôte*, and an excellent coffee-room in the lower part of the house. There was also a kind of tent erected, under which the inhabitants took their ice creams, or their favourite glass of the cordial of Zara. This hotel is far superior to the other, called *Aquilla nera*, which is the other principal inn, and where there is a *table d'hôte* at three o'clock. Its situation is at once airy and

amusing. The voices of the inhabitants, who are very clamorous in their bargains, the peculiarity of their dress and gestures, the singular intermixture of strangers of all nations, the turbaned Musselmen, Greeks, and Jews, with the Germans and Italians, all are calculated to strike the stranger with surprise; especially if, like ourselves, he has been for some time wandering among the peaceful vales of Hungary and Styria. This town carries on an extensive trade with the Levant, which of course accounts for the great influx of strangers of every nation. On our arrival in the market-place the voices were so loud, and the confusion so great, that we fully expected to hear that some public disturbance had taken place.

I must now attempt to give you some idea of this town, which is one of the principal sea-ports of the Austrian dominions, situated on a bay of the Adriatic, and on the declivity of a hill which is crowned with a castle. It is well built, and its streets tolerably broad, particularly the main street, with the advantage of a side pavement. The houses rise from the very margin of the sea, and spread

into a kind of amphitheatre on the sides of the hill on which the town is situated. The principal buildings are the palace, the public library, the hospital, and the theatre; the latter is very extensive, and its interior, with four rows of boxes, very tastefully and elegantly decorated. The exchange is a very handsome edifice; in one of the halls we were shewn a very large and well executed painting of the battle of Leipzic, lately placed there. Among the churches the most conspicuous are the cathedral, the church of St. Anthony, and the Jesuits church. The main street is full of good shops, and some of the houses have the advantage of a piazza or colonnade. There are three public walks which are much frequented; one of them is on the margin of the sea, the other two are at a pleasant distance from the town. The harbour is very fine, though in the winter it is not reckoned secure for ships of heavy burthen, as these seas are then visited by severe northerly blasts, against whose violence the port itself is not secure; large vessels therefore quit it before the rough season sets in.

We saw a considerable number of vessels dismantled and laid up, several of which had the American flag hoisted: they were detained here till a peace with England should be signed. The population is estimated at about 32,000 inhabitants. The men are mostly of a dark complexion, and the ladies more remarkable for grace than for beauty. The climate is not considered very healthy, the summers being remarkably hot and fevers prevalent at that season. The exports of Trieste consist of soap, cream of tartar, glass, silk, &c.

Two days ago we had the pleasure of dining with the gentleman who acts as English Consul here. His wife is a very amiable lady, and they are both remarkable for their kindness and attention to travellers, and particularly to those of the nation he represents. It was here we met Captain Dickens, commander of one of his Britannic Majesty's ships of war; he was in daily expectation of dispatches for Corfu, and was so kind as to offer us a passage thither, of which obliging offer we were happy to avail ourselves: the Captain however requested us to hold ourselves in readiness to go on board at an hour's warn-

ing. You may depend upon hearing of me from Corfu.

P. S.—I had almost forgotten to mention, that, should you visit Trieste, you would do well to make an excursion to the grotto of Corgnale; it is only two leagues distant, and will amply repay your curiosity. The old palace of the Serff also merits your attention. You may likewise hire a boat to visit Pola, which is about twenty German miles distant: the expence will not exceed from ten to fourteen ducats, and with a fair wind you may compleat the excursion in a few days; but as the inn at Pola is miserably supplied, it will be better to store your boat with all necessary provisions. I dwell more minutely upon these homely particulars, as I know you are not one of those heroes of romance who can subsist for weeks together upon the food of enthusiasm; still I am confident that feeling will be in some degree awakened at viewing the amphitheatre, which is in good preservation, together with the Roman temple and the triumphal arch, though the latter are in a more ruinous state.

LETTER XII.

Arrival at CORFU.—French Garrison.—Bustle of Departure.—Description of the Town.—Improvements made by the French.—Climate, and necessary Caution.—Inhabitants.—Inns.—French Soldiers' Argument.

Corfu, June 1814.

ACCORDING to appointment, we went on board the brig on the morning of the 10th of June. We scudded along with a pleasant breeze, and passed Rovigno and Pola, of which I spoke in my last letter. The weather was clear and the sea smooth, so that we were enabled distinctly to see the remains of the Roman amphitheatre, which at the distance we were and under so clear an atmosphere had a very beautiful appearance. On the 12th we passed the island of Agosta, which lies near the coast of Dalmatia; it has very good anchorage and several good springs of fresh water. We saw but few vessels on our passage, and met with nothing interesting. Owing sometimes to calms, at other times to contrary

winds, it was not till the 19th of June that we dropt anchor in the harbour of Corfu ; at a short distance from us lay a British fleet, consisting of the Revenge, a seventy-four, commanded by Admiral Gower, the Cyrus, the Elizabeth, and a frigate. There were five French men of war and three frigates at anchor in the harbour, close within shore ; their object was to convey away the French garrison.

We quitted the pleasant society of Captain Dickens with regret, as we had experienced every kindness and attention from him and his officers. Nothing can afford me greater pleasure than an opportunity of testifying my acknowledgement for the hospitality we received.

On landing at the town of Corfu, I found the French garrison, and all persons employed by that government, preparing to quit the island. Some seemed happy in the idea of once again beholding their native shores, while others, and perhaps the greater proportion, testified no small regret at leaving the place. No doubt it was interest that prompted this feeling, for the late French government had given several of the soldiers a certain number

of acres of waste land to cultivate, which in many instances they had done with success; besides, several soldiers and even officers had married natives of the island, and some were not altogether pleased with the idea of taking these wives with them to France.

We put up at the only inn in the place, called *La Cloche de Venise*; it is small and miserable, without any thing like comfort or accommodation. The landlord was perfectly indifferent either to the good or bad opinion of travellers, as he had reaped a plentiful harvest during the stay of the French garrison, and these fellows appeared determined to mitigate his grief for their departure by spending the evening in drinking deep potations at his expense, for he assured me he seldom or ever got paid. So boisterous was their mirth, and so stormy the chorusses of their farewell songs, that I could not close my eyes till day-break.

The town is but small and badly built, few of the houses being more than one story high, and mostly of wood: the streets are narrow, and some without pavement. The parade on the sea side is spacious, and kept in good order by the French, who also

made a canal from the harbour to the farther part of the town, which tends much to the convenience of trade. On its side is situated the castle, which communicates with the town by a drawbridge. Several small vessels and *scampa vias** lay in the canal. I must do the French the credit to say, that in this, as well as in other respects, they have not a little added to the improvement and convenience of the place : they have also formed a very handsome walk round the town, which is kept well gravelled, and is adorned with two rows of trees. This city is in every respect in an improving condition. The inhabitants have built some very good houses on the Esplanade, with colonnades of free stone ; others are begun, and in this part of the town there are several coffee-houses and billiard rooms. There is also a small theatre, well attended, though the performances are very indifferent : the company is entirely composed of Italians, and nothing is acted but Italian comedies and tragedies. The

* 'These are open boats of twenty oars each, carrying a twelve-pounder at the stern. Their principal use is for carrying the mail to Otranto and the Ionian Islands.

main street is tolerably broad and very long, and contains all the best shops, some of which present a handsome appearance, with their colonnades and other decorations. In this street the market is also kept: its principal commodities seemed to be salt-fish and preserved anchovies, a very favorite dish with the inhabitants; there was also a tolerable show of oranges, lemons, and other fruits. The wine, which is generally red, has a sweet taste, but is not so good as that obtained in some of the other Ionian Islands: it is very cheap, at the rate of from seven to ten *paras*, about four or five pence per bottle. The tobacco produced here is much esteemed, and I should conceive might be made an article of much greater mercantile importance. The gate at the top of the main street is built of large blocks of free stone, with an extensive gallery round the summit, which is of superior workmanship. I was informed that on digging the foundation for this gate they discovered large masses of marble, which are supposed to have been part of a spacious building formerly destroyed by an earthquake. There are three suburbs, which are very thickly inhabited. The island

is well fortified by strong ramparts and bastions, particularly the entrance to the harbour, which is protected by more than a hundred cannon, and affords good anchorage.

The principal produce of the island is oil; there are also manufactories of salt, but they are not in a very flourishing situation. The suburbs of the town of Corfu were formerly very thickly planted with mulberry trees, but they were cut down by the French during the war, in order to open a clear view to the harbour. The climate is not very wholesome, and some attention is necessary in the fall of the year, as fevers are frequently very predominant at that season, though I have reason to believe they are not always of a malignant nature.

The inhabitants generally wear mustachios: their usual dress consists of a large jacket and trowsers of dark stuff, fancifully embroidered, and light coloured waistcoat, with a profusion of small white buttons. They are excessively fond of smoking, but moderate in the use of spirituous liquors. It is true strangers cannot complain of their want of external politeness; but it is merely external, as they want sincerity, and ap-

pear not to have the slightest idea of hospitality. The women are generally tall and graceful in their deportment, but of a very pale complexion; their education is much, I might almost say, entirely neglected. The languages most in use are the modern Greek and bad Italian, but since the visit of the French their language is now generally spoken.

I had been informed that there was a coffee-house on the Esplanade, where travellers might be accommodated with rooms, but on visiting the place I did not find them more comfortable than those of my friend at the *Cloche de Venise*; the only difference was that they were not quite so extravagant. Butter and cow's milk are luxuries scarcely ever to be obtained at the inns here, and it is only by especial favour that goat's milk can be procured. To remedy this deficiency, the inhabitants make use of oil, and in such profusion, that I found most of their dishes rendered offensive and nauseous by it.

We paid a visit to Mr. Teotoki, a nobleman who is a native of the island, and possesses a very choice collection of medals, as also does his nephew, Mr. Strephalgadi.

They informed us that many curious medals and marbles have been discovered in the neighbourhood, and particularly some fine urns, which were almost all monopolized by the French and sent off to Paris. Most of the medals found here have the figure of a Pegasus on one side, and a boat on the other. An old inhabitant assured me that such quantities of urns and fragments had been discovered, that he made no doubt there had formerly been a manufactory of these articles near the town. He had the kindness to present me with an engraved copy of a Greek inscription, which was lately found near the gate, and which I here insert, in order to exercise the critical judgment of the learned.*

As the general features of the land, and the shores of this island resemble those of Calabria, many of the old inhabitants pretend that there are strong reasons to believe, that it once formed a part of the continent.

Through the kindness of General Campbell, the British governor, we obtained a passage on board a British transport for Zante, and ex-

* See Appendix.

pect to sail to-morrow or the day after. Corfu is particularly disagreeable at the present moment, as very few Englishmen are permitted to go on shore. The British governor stayed on board the *Revenge*, where we had yesterday the honour of paying him a visit, and found him possessed of all that affability and attention towards travellers, which ought to be characteristic of those who fill such a situation. He was so kind as to permit us to inspect the ship, and I do not know that any thing in my life ever struck me so forcibly, as the order, the discipline, the economy, the comfort, the convivial and social spirit, which I saw reign there, and which shewed that this discipline, severe as it was, had nothing in it calculated to break the freeborn spirit of the nation : all filled me with delight and admiration.

At the present moment all is bustle in Corfu. The regret of the French soldiers, in quitting their snug births in the island, increased as the moment of departure drew nigh. I saw them posting about the streets, in order to dispose of their furniture, wood, and other articles, which they could not carry with them, at any price they could obtain in such

an emergency. It was easy to see, that among other household effects, not a few, and particularly the officers, would have been glad to dispose of their wives at any rate, as they began to find them rather cumbersome. I was not a little amused at overhearing a conversation that took place between two soldiers, in their officer's room, which was contiguous to mine, and the partition not so thick as to shut out their loud conversation. Among other subjects of grievance, one of them observed, '*que sa femme étoit une excellente femme, mais qu'elle avoit quelques petits défauts, entre autres celui de l'aimer jusqu'à la folie. Je voudrais qu'elle fut ici avec toute sa famille.*'—'*Y resterait-elle ?*' asked the other.—'*Non,*' answered his comrade, '*elle m'a déclaré, qu'elle suivroit le bâtiment à la nage plutôt que de rester seul dans l'île et de demeurer séparée de moi.*'—'*Parbleu,*' replied the other very drily, '*vous êtes dix fois plus fol qu'elle ! que ne la laissez-vous nager : elle serait bientôt fatiguée.*'

LETTER XIII.

*ZANTE.—Description of the Town.—Inns.—
Theatre. — Environs.—Climate.—Trade.—
Useful Hints.—Society.—Character of the
Inhabitants.*

Zante, July 1814.

WE quitted the island of Corfu at the close of last month, and sailed with a favorable breeze; but had scarcely cleared the harbour, when we heard a heavy firing, and discovered the flag of his Britannic Majesty hoisted on the fort of the town, in place of the French colours which had been lowered. We discovered that it was a salutation from all the forts, as well as the English men of war on the occasion, which was answered by the French vessels. It was a grand and beautiful sight to behold from our quarter-deck, the masses of smoke rolling in volumes on the pure blue sky, like the fantastic clouds that frequently diversify the west on a fine summer evening. A soft breeze set in from the land, and during the whole day we could

distinctly hear the sounds of joy and merriment from the shore, as well as the report of pistols and small arms from the different merchantmen anchored in the harbour. Here we lay for some time becalmed, till a favorable breeze at last sprung up. We coasted close along the other Ionian Islands, and could distinctly see the shores of Paxos and Sta. Maura, and in the distance we beheld the blue summits of Ithaca and Cephalonia.

The first view of the harbour of Zante is very imposing; several handsome country houses peep from among the profusion of orange and lemon trees which line the shore. The port is not reckoned secure for ships of large burthen during the winter, and many are obliged to retire to the harbours of Ithaca, to take shelter during the heavy gales of December and January. We entered with a strong south-western breeze, which, I understand, during the summer months, regularly springs up about ten or eleven o'clock, blows very strong during the greater part of the day, and dies away at sunset.

The town of Zante is pleasantly situated at

the foot of a fertile hill. It is a long straggling place, consisting only of one main street; the houses are old and badly built, some few are constructed of bricks, but by far the greater part of wood, and generally from one to two stories high; the main street is broad and has the advantage of a side pavement. The market place, which is situated near the sea, is spacious and well laid out, and the houses are constructed with colonnades in front. The square answers the double purpose of an exchange for the merchants during the day, and as a public promenade during the summer evenings. There are several coffee-houses in this quarter, but they are very indifferently fitted up. It is surprising, that there should be no good hotel in the town; that which is called the *hôtel d'Angleterre* affords no comfortable accommodation to travellers, who are generally obliged to hire apartments.

As Mr. Maxwell held an appointment in the militia, we were so fortunate, through the kindness of the governor, as to obtain military apartments in the town, though they could boast of no other articles of furniture than a large table and a few benches. *Anto-*

nire de Spiro,* our Greek servant, was of infinite assistance to us in our domestic arrangements in this place.

We went the other day to the small theatre here, but it was very thinly attended; the company consisted entirely of Italians, and was very indifferent. You may imagine what encouragement is held out to performers, when I tell you, that we counted but three ladies in the whole house. There is a very good church near the market place; the architecture is in good taste, and the interior well decorated.

We have been taking an excursion on horseback to see the environs of the town, which are pleasant and picturesque.

The island is very fertile and produces a species of excellent wine; it has the same colour as claret, but differs from it in the

* It may be of use to the traveller to say a word respecting this man, who is perfectly well qualified for his situation, as he speaks the modern Greek, the Arabic, the Turkish, Italian, French, and English languages with tolerable fluency; in a word, he is at once an excellent servant, cook, and interpreter, and at the same time a good natured honest fellow. We engaged him at the rate of twenty Spanish piastres, or about five pounds per month.

sweetness of its taste ; it sells from eight to twelve *paras*, about six or seven pence a bottle : the white wine of the island is scarce. The gardens are kept in excellent order, and stocked with a profusion of orange and lemon trees which are very productive ; there is also an abundance of peaches, plums, and gooseberries, though but few cherries. Although the soil is very rich, potatoes and other vegetables do not come to any perfection ; in fact they pay no attention to the cultivation of these productions, as they are more partial to onions and sallads. Currants are equally as good here as at Corinth and form a principal branch of their trade ; oil is also produced in great abundance and of a very superior quality. They have rain so seldom that the gardens require to be watered every evening, and not unfrequently great inconvenience is caused to the inhabitants by the drying up of the wells and springs. Cow's milk and butter are, as at Corfu, not to be procured, and we feel its want the more, as the goat's milk they give us is very indifferent. This circumstance ought not to surprise us, when we consider that at the present moment there is scarcely a blade of grass on the island : all is

withered up by the intensity of the heat. Most of the springs, as I before observed, are dried up, and of the few that are not exhausted the water is very bad.

The houses are generally well built and mostly of brick; those on the borders of the sea are delightfully situated, and enjoy the luxury of a refreshing breeze, at least once a day. We were shown the country house which was inhabited by the queen of Sicily, when she paid a visit to this island: it is an elegant mansion, furnished in a very handsome manner, and commands some very beautiful views. It belonged to the Austrian consul, who lately died here.

There is a great curiosity, at the distance of about fifteen miles from this town; I mean the famous petroleum springs, which emit a liquid resembling tar.

The view from our window is enchanting. On a clear day we can distinctly see with the naked eye the castle and houses of the Morea, although the distance must be more than twenty miles. The view on the sea is constantly enlivened by a number of open boats that are going and coming from Patras and the opposite coast, besides many square-

rigged vessels on their passage to Egypt or the Levant. Nothing could be more delightful than the variety of aspects under which I beheld the sea from this situation; sometimes it lay extended in plains of liquid light, with every vessel reflected as in a mirror: two days ago I saw it when it blew a gale; the waves ran very high and whitened into foam, while several small open boats that were surprised by the suddenness of the squall were labouring with the billows, and striving to gain the shore. A fine breeze generally sets in from about eleven o'clock till midnight, but in the morning and evening there is usually a dead calm. Though the heat is intense, yet the island is considered very healthy; unlike its neighbour Corfu, it is seldom visited with fevers during the summer.

The place carries on a considerable trade; the harbour is at this moment crowded with vessels of all sizes. Packets sail regularly to Sicily, Malta, Greece, and Corfu; and it is at no time difficult to obtain a passage from this island to Egypt and Cyprus, as there are always vessels here bound for those quarters. A westerly wind generally sets in from June to November, so that the passage

to Egypt is very expeditious at this season: which likewise presents an advantage, by the cessation or abatement of the plague, the extremes of either heat or cold being equally effective in stopping the progress of that destructive malady. It is also advisable for travellers rather to wait a few days for a comfortable conveyance, than expose themselves to the manifold inconveniences experienced in a Greek vessel.

As the inhabitants lead a very retired life, strangers find scarcely any society in this place. Fortunately for us, we had a letter to Mr. Bunce, who is one of the first gentlemen in the town and very attentive to travellers; and not less so is Mr. Sergant, a merchant of respectability, who speaks English very well, and has constantly ships bound for England. It was to his recommendation that we were indebted for our useful Greek interpreter.

The inhabitants of this place do not bear so good a character as those of the other islands; they are lazy, jealous, and revengeful. On the summit of the hill that overlooks the town stands a gibbet with the body of a man, and the main street exhibits the horrid spectacle

of a human head fixed on a pole. Upon enquiry, we were informed that assassination was formerly very frequent here, and that the perpetrators always fled over to the Morea, where, for a trifling sum, they were protected by the Bey of Patras; but that since the island had come into the possession of the English, this shameful evasion of justice had been put a stop to by the spirited exertions of the Governor, and so flagrant a crime visited with exemplary severity. What we had just witnessed was an example of this necessary rigour; the spectacle could be seen at a considerable distance, and had produced its desired effect.

The men are dressed like those at Corfu. The female part of the inhabitants are handsome and well made, but, like their neighbours, very pale: their costume also resembles that of Corfu. They speak modern Greek and some little Italian, but scarcely any French. We could seldom see any of them in the streets, or even get a glimpse of them at the windows, which are all covered with lattice-work, so that they have the advantage, if advantage it may be termed, over the passenger, by being able to see him and yet remain concealed themselves. Formerly

they never went abroad except in masks, but lately they have exchanged them for the long black veil; and even that is used by many of the handsomer ladies, who are more solicitous to display than to muffle up their charms, rather as an ornament than as the means of concealment. But I speak this only of unmarried ladies, for the husbands are so jealous, that they oblige their wives to be constantly veiled. Some of the Papas, or priests, do not bear a much better character than the greater portion of their congregations. I felt not a little concerned to see one of them almost daily passing our window tipsy; he solicited charity, and was followed by a crowd of boys, who shouted and made sport of the weakness of their pastor.

We have engaged our passage on board a Greek brig, bound for Alexandria; the vessel is manned by ten Greek sailors and two boys. As the captain, to whom the ship belongs, is not a native of this place, they appointed a merchant of the island as captain, to whom was appropriated a part of the cargo; he goes under the denomination of the flag captain. Our agreement is for forty Spanish piastres, or ten pounds English, for Mr. Maxwell and myself, and half that sum for

our two servants ; this is merely for our passage, as we have to provide ourselves with every thing necessary. The brig does not present the most inviting appearance ; but we had no choice, as there were but two other vessels bound for Egypt, one of which seemed to be very old and crazy, while the other had been infested with a sickness which had carried off three of her crew. The cabin of our brig is uncomfortably low, and very roughly finished off ; there is no table, nor any thing to sit upon but the floor, and no windows, so that the only light admitted is from the door : added to which, the vessel is unclean and badly rigged.

I took a sail this morning to see the new harbour which they are making to receive ships of greater burthen. The work is going on rapidly, and will much forward the interests of trade. It is intended that the harbour should be of sufficient magnitude for ships of large size, and even frigates, to ride safe at all seasons. That for smaller vessels is already completed, and it affords them the facility of lying close up to the town. Ships performing quarantine are stationed at the distance of about two miles from the shore, and are distinguished by a yellow flag.

LETTER XIV.

*Departure from ZANTE. — Greek Sailors. —
Arrival at ALEXANDRIA. — Precaution to
Travellers in the LEVANT. — The Plague. —
Resident Consuls.*

Alexandria, July 1814.

FROM the fourth to the ninth of July our honest Greek captain ordered us daily on board, where we waited in vain for our departure; but new difficulties were continually started. One day he objected to sailing under pretence that the wind was not fair; on another day the fault was laid on the custom-house. At length our patience was almost exhausted, as we had given up our pleasant apartments, taken leave of our fine gardens, and the beautiful orange and lemon-trees which had afforded us such fragrant and refreshing shade. The thought of having been forced to quit all these enjoyments rendered our disappointment doubly provoking, and we too soon found the truth of the proverb "*Græca fides, nulla fides.*" It was on the 9th

of July that he relieved us from our disappointments, by heaving anchor and getting under weigh. As I am used to the sea, I had grown quite familiar with the exclamations with which British and American tars cheer each other at their labours; habit had made that which is so annoying to the landsman rather pleasing and cheerful to me. The contrast, therefore, on board the Greek vessel was remarkable: these turbaned sirs hardly uttered a syllable; it was a dead silence and a grave ceremony. But if they kept their gravity themselves, it was impossible for the spectators to do the same, for after seeing the activity and expedition of British seamen, their awkwardness was marvellous: nor was the anchor raised without many a fellow's getting some awkward contusion, by being thrown down by his still more awkward neighbour.

It was three in the afternoon before we were under weigh, when a fair breeze sprung up, and we sailed at the rate of five or six knots an hour. We had a fine view of the Morea, as our captain, conscious of his nautical ignorance, kept as close as possible in shore, that in case of bad weather he

might make as quickly as possible to the first port for shelter.

On the 10th we could plainly distinguish Sapienza. The captain borrowed our glass, and was spying about with much solicitude the whole day. A boy was kept on the mast to look out, and give notice if any boat appeared in sight, as they pretended that pirates, particularly the Mainottes, who are famous robbers and pirates in the gulf of Coron, lay in that neighbourhood in ambuscade to surprise small vessels. We, however, passed without accident, the wind continuing fair and the sky clear. On the 11th we were off the island of Cerigo, passing it with a fresh breeze, the wind rather increasing: towards evening we discovered the high mountains of the island of Candia. On the same day we hailed a Turkish vessel, with several blacks on board, who with their white turbans formed a curious contrast. Their captain informed us in the Turkish language, that he came from Smyrna, and was on his way to Trieste; that they had had a remarkable quick run, having been only four days at sea. Their vessel was of a very singular construction, being pointed at

both ends and broad in the middle, carrying only one very large mast. Ships of this construction are fast sailers, but unsafe in a gale of wind.

It was on the 12th that we enjoyed the cheering and magnificent spectacle of the sun rising behind the summits of Mount Ida. During the whole of this day, and part of the 13th, we had the lofty chain of these classical mountains full in view. The tops of several were covered with snow, and formed a dazzling and magnificent horizon; indeed the whole island presented an imposing appearance. The weather on the 14th was rough and unpleasant, the sky looked rather wild, and the breeze blew fresh from the south-east; we heard several claps of thunder, but no rain followed. We remained the whole day anxiously expecting the pleasure of seeing the port of our destination, and of getting rid of our ignorant and disagreeable companions, who were busied in clearing their anchors and in preparing their papers for the custom-house. Towards night the weather grew fair, the sky became serene, and a moderate breeze from the south-west carried us pleasantly along. On the 15th of July, at seven

in the morning, we discovered three small vessels; this produced a general joy, but it was not till eleven that we had the satisfaction to discover land.

The first object that met our eyes was the summit of Pompey's Pillar, though we were then at about ten English miles distance from shore; the tops of the mosques seemed to emerge from the sea, and by degrees the flat shore of Egypt, and a part of the town of Alexandria, arose to view. About twelve we discovered a Turkish pilot boat rowing towards us; the pilot asked the captain the size of the vessel, and how much water it drew, without offering to come on board, although we had kept the signal flying for above two hours. As soon as the captain had answered the usual questions, the boat rowed off to another vessel, and left us to get into the port as well as we could. A few hours after we dropt anchor in the *Porto Turco*, off Alexandria.

In addition to the disagreeables attendant upon Greek vessels, I must mention, that we had scarcely put to sea when the captain, as well as the sailors, took off their dress, which even in the first instance was

not the most splendid, and covered themselves with rags. What a pleasant spectacle to see these fellows pacing the deck, with the most perfect indifference towards either the captain, the mate, or passengers! Besides, as our cabin was miserably close and confined, we were obliged to take our meals on deck, in the midst of these disgusting objects. During the whole passage they never once cleaned the deck of the ship: how regaling to the senses such a scene; how likely to stimulate an appetite already impaired by the nausea of a sea voyage! Most of them lay the whole day stretched upon their backs on deck, and covered with remnants of old sailcloth: some had even the cool impudence to stretch themselves at full length upon the quarter-deck, so as to prevent us from walking. They appeared to pay very little respect to their mate, or even to their commander: each man, without orders from the officers, or uttering a syllable, either hoisted or lowered the sails, as his stupidity or fancy happened to suggest: this was even done by the boys, the oldest of whom was but sixteen. The helm was generally lashed, while they lay snoring and unconcerned about the unsteady element they had to

deal with. If it blew fresh, they forced one of the three boys to take the helm, who left it every moment and went very deliberately to the fore-castle to light his pipe. When they had finished their sleep, they sat on the deck cross-legged, and amused themselves with smoking and playing at cards, disputing every moment who should go and take the helm; and if by chance any one took it, he left it immediately to see the event of the game his comrades were busied in. Not that I ever saw the captain partake in these amusements; but on more occasions than one, both Mr. Maxwell and myself have run to steer the ship till their dispute was settled, or till the helmsman had given his opinion about some material point of the game. Their meals were far from being luxurious: they eat nothing during the passage but raw onions dipt in oil, with stale bread, and cheese as hard as stone; they had two casks of new wine, which was quite sour, and served as the only relish to their scanty meal. There was little or no fire-wood on board, and though we were only three days at sea we felt its want considerably. They had neither spy-glass, speaking-trumpet, nor regular compass with

them, steering by the sun and their own instinct : a compass, however, would have been useless, as I am sure there was no one but the captain who would have known how to steer by it. We were one day much surprised to see a large fire on deck, and found the captain and his son, a boy of thirteen, busied in caulking and tarring the long boat. Although it blew pretty fresh, the rest of the gallant crew were all in a profound sleep, and in spite of our observations, the captain would continue to expose the ship, and cover the quarter-deck with thick clouds of smoke, which the wind blew directly in our faces to our no small annoyance. In a word, it is impossible to describe the filth, ignorance, and brutality of these fellows.

We had hardly dropt anchor, when a custom-house officer came to demand the captain's papers ; and no sooner had he left us, than we were visited by the boat from the health office. The doctor was a young Piedmontese, dressed after the Levantine fashion, and of rather a genteel appearance ; he informed us that the plague had just ceased at Cairo, but was raging with great violence at Rosetta, Damietta, Jerusalem, Smyrna, and many

other towns in the Levant; and that the Pacha of Alexandria had established a quarantine on all vessels coming from these parts, and had shut the gates of the town to prevent the entrance of strangers from Cairo and Rosetta. This was not the most pleasing news to men in our situation, accompanied as it was by a caution against holding any communication with a number of vessels that lay at no great distance.

We dispatched a note by the doctor to Mr. Lee, the British consul at Alexandria, under the hope that permission might be obtained from the Pacha for us to come on shore. It was four o'clock when the interpreter came with this order, the consul having very kindly sent him to accompany us. We were repeatedly warned by a Turkish officer to avoid the small craft which were lashed one to another, and filled with Turks and Arabs from Rosetta and Cairo, under quarantine. The poor fellows shouted to us as we passed, and seemed to be either asking for victuals or permission to come on shore; it was the most confused and disagreeable noise I ever heard: the Arabs in particular accompanied their shouts with very curious gesticulations. The drog-

man of the English consul took us to a kind of coffee-house, kept by an Italian called Pietro, where we at present reside. It is a small miserable house, with very wretched accommodations; yet even here there is a billiard table and a coffee-room. The motto over the door is in Italian: *Paga oggi domane credito*—‘Pay to-day, to-morrow credit.’

A residence here, however, is by no means so desirable as lodgings in some private family, or with the drogman, who takes in a few boarders. The following are the consuls who reside here from the different courts, to whom travellers from each respective nation will do well to apply for all necessary information. Mr. Lee is the English consul; Mr. Drouetti, the French; Mr. Lazzari, the Swedish and Danish; Mr. Camps the Spanish; Mr. Alexander Breccianti the Prussian; Mr. Goddart the Austrian and Russian; and Mr. Vantozzi the Sicilian consul.

Strangers who visit this town ought to provide themselves with their own mattress and linen, not forgetting a gauze net to keep off the musquitos. It is prudent in these countries not quite to undress, and to keep the windows closed during the night. As the streets here

are neither paved nor lighted, travellers should never go out without a lantern, to avoid the badness of the roads, and a cane as a protection from insult. I am advised by the old inhabitants to avoid the night air, and never to walk with my head uncovered during the heat of the day; as a caution against the opthalia, they also advise us to wash our eyes twice a day with cold water mixt with a few drops of vinegar. They said we should bathe often, eat but little meat and fruits, and confine ourselves as much as possible to vegetables; we were also cautioned against the use of wine, and advised to chose rum and water for our general beverage. As the houses in Egypt are almost all destitute of the necessary utensils of cookery, a canteen is indispensable. Throughout all Greece and Turkey, the *Khan*, or inns, consist of nothing but the bare walls, and it is lucky if even these be found weather-proof.*

I have already observed that it is advisable

* It is also advisable for the traveller to be provided with his own saddle and bridle, as most of the horses and asses have nothing but an old woollen cover, which will be found very uncomfortable, and at the same time expose him to the danger of catching the plague.

to visit Egypt and Syria in the months of June, July, or August, or in January, February, and March, as it has been found that the plague is less active in its destructive influence during the extremes either of heat or cold. When symptoms of this evil appear, the greatest caution should be observed in touching things, walking the streets, or coming in contact with any person. After returning from a walk, it is particularly advisable to wash the mouth, face, and hands with cold water mixed with a little vinegar: smoking is also thought very commendable, as it conduces to purify the air.

LETTER XV.

Description of ALEXANDRIA. — Environs. — Pompey's Pillar. — Cleopatra's Needle. — Turkish and Christian Ladies. — Climate. — Monsieur Drouetti. — Statue and Inscription found here. — Arabs. — State of the Quarantine.

Alexandria, July 1814.

THIS town, which was formerly very rich and splendid, is now partly in ruins. The houses are almost all two stories high, of a white chalky colour, and built without chimneys. The roofs are flat, and here the inhabitants generally sit in the evening to breathe the fresh air. The more wealthy have a kind of tent erected on that part of their houses, surrounded with flower-stands to shade them from the sun and to keep off the night air. The houses have no glass windows, but blinds or lattice-work, in order that the ladies may look into the street without being seen by the passengers. Many of the houses have a kind of balcony or gallery in front, covered with lattice-work,

through which they receive their various provisions in the time of the plague, as on these melancholy occasions all the inhabitants are confined to their habitations, and no one is permitted to have either ingress or egress during this kind of horrid quarantine.

I was informed that the inhabitants were once shut up for nine months together, without any person of the family being permitted to go out, in consequence of the violence of the plague. They are obliged to use much precaution in receiving their provision through these lattices, as different articles of food, under various circumstances, are more or less liable to convey infection; bread, for instance, when in a warm state, is very liable to communicate the plague, but when cold does not possess that power. Large baskets are lowered down into the street, and hoisted again the moment the provisions are placed in them; these, with their contents, are immersed for some time in cold water before the servants are permitted to touch them.

The streets are narrow and not paved. The parade is spacious, and situated near the sea; it has been improved and gravelled by the French, and serves as a walk after sun-

set to the Europeans, who come here in the cool of the evening to enjoy the freshness of the sea breeze. The bazar, or market place, is very extensive, but narrow, and the shops have a miserable appearance. The town is divided into two parts, the *Quartiere Franco*, where the Christians live, and the *Quartiere Turco*, which is almost exclusively inhabited by the Turks; the former is airy, and the houses tolerably well built, but the latter is remarkable for nothing but its filthiness. The French have erected a fine wall round that part of the town which faces the sea, and the Turks have planted several cannon on the spot.

In consequence of the quarantine, the gates of Rosetta were shut, and no one could have either ingress or egress without an order from the commandant of the town; however, we obtained permission, through the kindness of Mr. Lee, the English consul, who did us the favour to accompany us. We rode out to see Pompey's Pillar, and passed the suburbs, which are little better than a heap of ruins, as the houses were destroyed by the French in the late war in order to get the wood out of the buildings, of which

there was a considerable scarcity. When we reached the gates of the town, which are very plain, badly built, and apparently very old, we saw whole swarms of Arabs and Turks from Cairo and Rosetta, who were performing their quarantine. We could not help feeling rather uneasy, as we were scarcely able to pass the crowd without touching some one or other, particularly the Arabs, who as usual were very vociferous and full of gesticulation: the object of their clamours was that they might be admitted into the town. Fortunately we were all provided with canes, and used every exertion to keep them at a distance; but this, even with the assistance of two of the Consul's janissaries, we found no easy matter.

The country appeared very barren, and the grass was all scorched up by the intense heat. After riding about an hour over a sandy waste, varied only by small hills, we arrived at this famous remnant of antiquity. It is formed of one entire piece of granite, about seventy feet high, and stands on a barren spot covered with broken earthenware; from this circumstance it is supposed there was once a manufactory of those articles. The Turks

have lately made several excavations under the pillar, from an idea that some treasure might be concealed there: and such is the effect of this destructive curiosity, that it is to be feared the pillar will be unable to stand for any length of time, unless some lover of antiquity should undertake to support it. The Turks are always very suspicious when Europeans visit this spot, fearing they may discover and carry off something valuable. Man is fond of connecting his name with every thing that conveys the idea of greatness and imperishable durability: this column is filled with names of travellers who have visited it; some even are written quite on the top. Several English sailors climbed up to the summit, and in this exalted situation drank to the health of a monarch, whose name is dear to Englishmen, and whose virtues no distance can obliterate from their minds.

On a small hill, at a short distance from the pillar, we had a very fine view of the sea, stretching in long level lines of light, and forming a resplendent frame to this singular picture. From thence we rode to Cleopatra's Needle, which is a curious obelisk, covered

with hieroglyphics. The Turks have also been digging here, and discovered many stones shaped out for the purpose of architecture. Besides this there is another obelisk, almost of the same size, which we understood some English gentlemen had an intention to convey to England, but unfortunately for the arts it was found too ponderous to admit of being removed from its situation.

There is little or no society here: the Turks live quite retired and never mix with the Christians, though they are tolerably polite and attentive to travellers, particularly towards the English, of whom they speak with great respect. I observed, also, that most of the ships in the harbour were under English colours; and although France is now at peace with all the powers of Europe, I could count only two French ships in the port. The Turkish ladies are seldom seen, and never walk out except in masks, which are formed of black silk, leaving only a part of the nose and the eyes visible. I met several in the streets wrapt up in a kind of white gown, with sleeves so very wide and long that even the points of their fingers could not be seen. They wear a long white veil over the head,

so that their hair and every part is concealed : they have always a Turkish servant armed following them. The Turks seldom walk in the streets with their wives ; in fact, the only companion I ever met them with were their long pipes. In their houses the head-dress of the Turkish ladies is a white *berretta*, a kind of cap embroidered with gold and fastened on one side. They wear their hair very long ; it is generally black, and reaches in long platted folds almost down to their ancles. At the end of every fold three sequins are suspended ; this seems to be a favourite ornament : they have also a variety of the same coins fancifully arranged in their head-dress. When they walk, the sequins suspended from their long flowing tresses make a jingling noise, like so many bells. This is a custom of very high antiquity, as may be seen in the description which the prophet Isaiah gives of the luxuries of his time. They also wear necklaces composed of sequins and pearls, a very loose robe of white Indian muslin, worked with ornamental figures and of the richest colours, with sleeves like those of the Greek ladies. They wear yellow half-boots, very loose, and consequently but ill adapted

to display the elegance of a neat ankle. They also wear a kind of loose yellow slippers over their boots when they go out. But the most extraordinary part of their taste is that of dying their nails of a blue or orange colour. There is something very tasteful in the scarf of white crape, richly embroidered with gold and silver, which they throw over their dress with graceful negligence. The few I have met in the streets have large feet, and are rather inclined to be corpulent from want of exercise, consequently there is but little grace in their walk and gestures. Their eyes are very vivid and expressive, yet seem marked with a character of grief at their captivity. Of the Frank or Christian ladies, some are dressed after the European manner, others after the mode of the Turkish ladies, except that they do not go masked, and wear no white loose scarf. Both Turks and Christians have almost invariably a string of beads in their hands, which they constantly count, as if by way of pastime. There is a church at a short distance from the town, which most of the Christian inhabitants frequent on the Sunday.

Mr. Polani, a rich merchant here, has cor-

respondents in almost every part of the Levant, and I advise you to procure a letter of credit upon him ; he is civil, but the inhabitants accuse him of carrying the principles of economy too far. Mr. Lee, the English consul, is very polite and attentive to travellers. We have seen scarcely a single garden of any magnitude near the town, but there is one at about half a mile distant rented by Mr. Lee, which we went to visit ; the soil is so dry that they are obliged to water it every evening. Dates were in great abundance ; there were also several orange and lemon trees, pumpkins, and a few other vegetables.

The climate is very pleasant, as we have an Italian sky ; and although the nights and mornings are hot, and the sun powerful, yet at two o'clock there is regularly a strong westerly breeze, which is very refreshing. The greatest annoyance we find here is the multitude of flies and insects, which not only torment the person, but also render it impossible to keep any thing liquid from them. I really believe our stomachs will be soon accustomed to them, as it is almost impossible to avoid swallowing a certain dose

during the day. The musquitos are equally troublesome during the night ; and a musquito-net is absolutely necessary if you wish to enjoy a moment's repose.

We visited the elegant collection of antiquities belonging to Mons. Drouetti, the French consul, who is well informed, polite, and attentive to travellers of all nations. He informed us that some time ago he was out shooting pigeons, which are in great abundance here ; he killed one which fell in a yard belonging to an Arab, and while in search of the bird discovered a piece of black stone, the rest of which was buried in the ground. He offered a Spanish piastre to the Arab if he would permit him to dig on the spot, to which he gladly consented. On Mons. Drouetti's digging, he found a most beautiful statue of granite, with a Greek inscription, of which I insert the following translation with which he presented me :—

*‘ Le peuple Lycien à Ptolomie, chef des
 ‘ gardes du corps et grand veneur, un des pre-
 ‘ miers favoris de Ptolomie, et fils de grand
 ‘ veneur, qui à cause des vertus et de la piété
 ‘ permanente de son père, rend les Dieux satis-*

‘ *faits et propices, au Roi Ptolomie, à sa sœur*
‘ *la Reine Cléopatra, à leurs enfans, et au peu-*
‘ *ple Lycien.*’

We saw the statue, which is in a perfect state of preservation, and from four to five feet high. Monsieur Drouetti showed great attention to some English officers, who were prisoners here during the war. In proof of this he shewed us a letter he had received from General Fraser, wherein he expresses his acknowledgment for these attentions. Being on the best terms with the Pacha, he not only obtained their liberty, but even provided several officers with a letter of credit on Constantinople, to which place the government sent them. He also assured us, that owing to his intimacy with several of the Beys up the Nile, he had been the cause of cutting off the supplies from the English army. He pretended that, had the army of that nation first taken Rosetta, before proceeding up the Nile, they would have obtained provisions, in spite of the Beys.

The general costume of the Arabs is a kind of blue frock coat and a white turban. They all go barefoot, are of dark complexion and well made, with rather small eyes. The wo-

men have small hands and feet, with short black hair, blue eyes, and good teeth; they generally wear a dress of an indigo blue colour, with short sleeves, but without any covering to their heads. Though the drapery they wear is very ineffectual in concealing their persons, so that their breasts are frequently left quite exposed, yet they possess a natural modesty, which instinctively prompts them to turn from the gaze of an European. The men are extremely polite, and fond of shaking hands with travellers on the road, which proved no small annoyance to us, from the apprehension of taking the plague. They are also very ceremonious in putting a string of enquiries to those they meet; first asking about their own health, then as to that of their wives and families, and finally whether their cattle and servants are safe and well. Should they see a traveller at nearly a quarter of a mile distant, they will come up to him, place their right hand on their breast, shake hands, and put the above-mentioned questions; and no sooner is their curiosity satisfied with the proper answers than they depart.

This morning I saw a great drove of camels, intended for the army of the Pacha, who is

carrying on a most destructive war against the Mohabic Arabs. Water here is very indifferent; that of the Nile, which is mostly used, is very bad, especially when the river is low. The Arabs come with their camels from a great distance to fetch it in leathern bottles; at the command of the Arab, these docile animals will kneel down, that their master may load or unload them with greater ease. If the Arab is cruel enough to overload the animal, it will utter cries and groans, by which I have often seen the beast prevail upon his master to discharge part of the load for its relief. The dromedary is not so strong as the camel, nor is the breed of them so numerous. We were informed, that when the French were in Egypt they rode these animals double, and thus formed a regiment. They do not trot fast, and their motion is very uneasy and disagreeable.

We learnt two days ago, that in consequence of a sudden order of the Grand Signior, received by a frigate, the Pacha was immediately to raise the quarantine, that usage being contrary to the law of the koran; in consequence of this injunction, the quarantine established here, by the advice of Mons.

Drouetti, who is a favourite of the Pacha, was suddenly dissolved. This caused much alarm amongst the Christian inhabitants, as Turkish sailors were actually seen in the streets with the plague upon them, and some of those infected with it were found in the bazar. Many European families shut themselves up in their houses, and thus formed a kind of domestic quarantine, in the manner above described: the English consul informed us he intended to do the same the very day after our departure. This is the reason why you will receive my next letter from Cairo, as we find it too hazardous to make any longer stay here; therefore to-morrow is fixed for our departure to Damanhur, on our way to Chibrakit, from which place we shall embark for Cairo. Through the kindness of Mr. Lee, we have obtained letters of recommendation from the Governor of Alexandria to Ali Bey, who is governor of Damanhur. We have decided on travelling during the night, to avoid the danger of coming in contact with people in the streets, and to avoid the heat. Two camels are hired, and several asses, to form our cavalcade. We quit this place with regret, as circumstances have not permitted us

to examine it with the attention we wished; not only the alarm of the plague, but the inconvenience we should have experienced, from all our friends being shut up in their houses, forced us to come to this determination.

LETTER XVI.

*Departure for CAIRO.—Arabian Village.—
DAMANHUR.—Visit to Ali Bey.—Turkish
Customs. — Arabian Dance.—Fortification
and Military Stores.—Turkish Cruelty.—
The enlightened Mussulman. — Escort. —
Arabian Politeness.—CHIBRAKIT.—Western
Nile.—BULAC.—CAIRO.*

Cairo, August 1814.

AFTER having loaded the camels, &c. with our baggage, we proceeded on our journey, under the escort of two Arabs, who were well recommended to us. On the eve of our departure, Mr. Buckingham, a great traveller in these parts, introduced himself to us, and requested to accompany us to Cairo, as he was known to the English consul in that place. This gentleman spoke very good Arabic and we were glad of his company. We started about midnight, and formed a considerable cavalcade. Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Buckingham, and myself, composed the vanguard and our servants, with *Antonio de Spiro*, the

Greek, and two Arabs, were in the rear, escorting the camels loaded with our baggage.

The night was all serenity, and the heavens sparkled with numberless stars. All was hushed. We did not meet a single person, nor was the sound of any animal to be heard. The atmosphere was warm but pleasant, though not a breath of air was stirring. An Italian sky was above us, but it wanted the accompaniment of the nightingale, the absence of whose melody rendered the scene incomplete.

We continued our journey over a very barren track of country, till we saw daylight break in the east. Between seven and eight we met several Arabs, and could hardly refrain from laughing at the formal inquiries they began to put to us, after having shaken hands with our whole cavalcade. About nine we were much pleased to see a village appear in sight, being rather fatigued, and in want of our breakfast. Half an hour after we reached the place, where we stopped at the house of the *sheik*, or judge, who received us in a very friendly manner; he spread an old straw mat in the yard before his door, and presented us a wooden bowl filled with fresh goat's milk,

and a kind of a thin cake of rye. We had scarcely seated ourselves when the whole village, men, women and children, surrounded us, and formed themselves into a circle at about three paces from us. The Sheik's family and friends sat with us on the mat, and did not a little annoy us by their admiration of every thing we had, particularly our knives, coats, travelling caps, &c. Not content with bare admiration, they could not be easy without handling the various articles that delighted them. One of the servants foolishly showed our pistols, which were loaded, as a necessary precaution against the hords of plundering Arabs which infest these parts. The Sheik no sooner saw them, than, as usual, he was anxious to examine one of them; we were apprehensive of an accident, and were obliged to take it from him: this for a moment offended the old man, but he soon got into good humour again. The women laughed to see us using a knife and fork: some of them were rather handsome, and were dressed in blue gowns with short sleeves; others were almost naked, and little attentive to the cleanliness or decency of their persons. Most of the children were quite naked, even

those at the age of ten years, and ran about like wild animals, or sat playing in the hot sand. The women stood and gazed very earnestly at us, but the moment we fixed our eyes upon them, they immediately put their gowns before their faces. There was not a Turk to be seen, nor any human being, except Arabs. The village looked very miserable: it might consist of nearly two hundred houses, scattered about without any order; they were all of one story and built of mud, without either windows or chimneys. The house consisted of but one miserable room, where they all slept huddled together; there were no windows, and the only light admitted was through the doors, a few only excepted, which had round holes in the walls for this purpose: each house had a kind of covered out-house, where their pigs were kept. The only trees in the place are dates. It is customary in Egypt, when a Sheik dies, to place his tomb in the middle of the village, where his friends erect a fountain for fresh water, and the poor of the village, or some old people, who are unfit to work, sell it to the traveller for one or two *paras* a pitcher. After having refreshed ourselves and fed our animals, we thanked

the Sheik for his civilities, and made him a present of some Spanish piastres. We then shook hands with all his friends, and with more than half the circle, and mounted our asses to continue the journey to Damanhur; but had hardly left the house when we were followed by a crowd calling '*bachshish!*'—drink-money. We pretended not to understand what they wanted; but they continued to follow us above a quarter of a mile, and then returned to their village.

At eleven o'clock we found the heat intense; there was not a tree to be seen, to afford a moment's shade from the scorching sun, and we were almost exhausted, as we had neglected to take fresh water with us. At one o'clock, when our tongues were parched and our faces blistered by the sun, we had the good fortune to discover several date trees, which afforded us a shelter to rest under, and a Sheik's tomb with a fountain of fresh water: though its taste was but indifferent, yet it proved a luxury in a moment like the present. Having refreshed ourselves we again continued our journey, without any interruption, and without meeting with any thing interesting.

At five o'clock we came in sight of the town of Damanhur, and shortly after reached the house of the Governor Ali Bey, to whom, as I have already mentioned, we had letters of recommendation. We entered a very extensive yard and came to a large wooden house, which was one story high, and surrounded by pillars of brick. Here we were received by three Turkish officers, the principal of whom was treasurer to the Bey; his name we learnt was Hasnada, and he appeared about twenty-six years of age: the others were two favorite slaves; one was a Turk called Hassan, the other a Mameluke named Mahomed Ali; the first wore a green Turkish dress, and the two others red gowns. They conducted us up a large wooden staircase of neat workmanship, but by no means very cleanly, into a large hall filled with Arabs and Turks. From this apartment we were ushered into a large room, wainscotted in a very rough manner, and neither papered nor any other way ornamented. At the entry hung a kind of lantern, and the middle of the room was divided by a wooden rail, which enclosed a sort of elevated platform, with an approach to it of two steps. About

a dozen sabres and pistols were suspended on nails on the outside of the railing. Several Turks were seated on the steps, but they all rose on our entrance, and signified that we must take off our boots and shoes on the outside. This done, we entered the inner rail; two windows with ornamented wooden work were facing us, a carpet was spread in the room, and around it, close to the wall, were red silk couches, and cushions of the same stuff.

On one side sat the Bey cross-legged smoking the *huka*, a long pipe the tube of which is immersed in a vessel of water. He is a tall handsome looking man about forty-two years old, of a dark complexion, with black hair and mustachios. He wore a richly embroidered Turkish dress, and was surrounded by several old Turks, who stood at a respectful distance. A very old Arab, with a grey head and beard, sat on a cushion on the floor near him: we were informed that he was the Sheik of the town. When Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Buckingham, and myself entered, the treasurer requested us to sit down on a couch near the Bey; our Greek interpreter, Antonio de Spiro, stood on our left, and the

Scotch servant sat on the steps outside the rails, as he was not permitted to enter the inner part. The Bey continued talking with the Turks near him, without paying any attention to us, till we had rested ourselves for a few minutes: indeed it is a custom with the Turks, which I believe prevails all over their dominions, that when a stranger comes into the room he is permitted to sit down and rest for a short time before they enter into conversation with him. He then placed his right hand upon his breast, which compliment we answered in the same way. He told us, through his interpreter, that he was very glad to see us, and begged we would sit and act according to the European customs. He assured us he was very fond of the Europeans, having been educated amongst them at Salonichi. We presented him our letter of recommendation, and during the time the Bey was reading it, several slaves dressed in green brought us long pipes with very rich amber mouth-pieces. The pipes were first carried to the chief officers of the Bey's life guard, who presented them to us, having previously smoked a few seconds to see if they were well lighted. The same slaves brought each

of us a cup of coffee, without milk, and sweetened with white powdered sugar. The coffee was of the choicest kind, and served up in a small silver cup on an earthenware saucer. As soon as we had drank it, the slaves reached us a glass of sherbet: it is composed of oatmeal, boiled with sugar and mixed with rose-water, and is a very cool and refreshing beverage. They brought the Scotch servant, who sat on the steps before the rails, a dish of coffee, but no pipe or sherbet.

When the Bey had read the letter, he told us, through his interpreter, that he wished we would make his house our home, and stay with him at least three weeks. We thanked him for his polite reception, and observed that we might, perhaps, pass this way again, when we would certainly avail ourselves of his kind offer; but that our present stay was limited to two days. He observed, that several travellers had promised him to come back, but that he never found one who kept his word. When we apologised for appearing before him covered with dust, he said that all honest men, whether well or ill dressed, were the same to him, as worth and good conduct made the

only distinction. He laughed very heartily when we informed him that Napoleon was sent to the Island of Elba, observing that the bird was at last caught in a cage. During our conversation some slaves brought a very richly ornamented silver tripod, filled with burning coals, upon which some incense was thrown, and it was presented to us to inhale the fragrant smoke, and at the moment we inclined our head a slave sprinkled some rose-water over us, from a bottle he held in his left hand. Having taken nothing since our scanty breakfast, we were not displeased when the treasurer announced that supper was ready.

The Bey observed that we must need refreshment, and begged us to retire without ceremony. We readily obeyed, and were conducted to a moderate-sized apartment, with two windows looking into the yard: there was a small mat on the floor, and six large baskets filled with grapes and water melons; the Bey had ordered these fruits to be placed here that we might partake of them whenever we felt inclined. The treasurer and several other officers of the Bey's guard directed the slaves to place a small round iron plate upon

a low table, around which we seated ourselves upon the mats. They gave us each a small round loaf, which was very thin and badly baked, but served us as a plate; there was no table-cloth or napkin, and instead of a knife and fork we were furnished with a small wooden spoon. One of the slaves brought us a brass bason and a pitcher of water, and presented us a white towel embroidered with coloured flowers which hung over his shoulders. After we had washed our hands, another slave brought a boiled calf's head, and placed it on a wooden plate before the treasurer, who stood at the table. We were not a little surprised when the former reached his hand to one of the slaves to put up his gown and shirt sleeves; we wondered what this preparation meant, but were still more astonished to see the treasurer take the calf's head, tear it to pieces, and with his fingers place a piece of it before each of us. He was constantly helping us in this delicate manner to those parts he thought most to our taste. Nothing but extreme hunger could have induced us to partake of it, and we frequently shut our eyes in order not to observe the grand treasurer's operations. When this dish was taken away,

the slaves brought another, containing six fried pigeons, which underwent the same process as the calf's head. A slave presented us a pitcher of cold water to drink, which went round the table, the treasurer and several officers drinking after us. They eat of almost every dish, and several inferior officers, who stood behind us, seized a piece before the slaves took it away. After the pigeons we had a rice pillaw, with fowls, and a kind of pudding; the two last dishes would have been excellent had not oil been used instead of butter, even to profusion. After helping us to water melons and grapes, they took away the table, and a slave brought us water to wash with. Our pipes were then again presented to us, next came coffee, and last of all a glass of sherbet. At ten o'clock we retired to bed; the heat during the night was intense, and the room filled with flies, who were as unwilling any one else should sleep as themselves: but the fatigues we had undergone during the day, made us insensible to a variety of annoyances which on any other occasion would have been sufficient to banish repose.

At an early hour next morning I heard

a great noise in the court-yard, and saw several young officers employed in breaking in their Arabian chargers. They set off at full speed and threw long javelins over the horse's head, then suddenly stopped short, and wheeled about to their first position; an old officer was with them, who taught them this exercise. Their saddles were of wood, raised high both before and behind and covered with leather, without being much stuffed, and resembled pack saddles; the stirrups were as large as shovels, and not unlike them in shape and form. They neither wear boots nor spurs, but a kind of large slippers. The Bey never kept his horses in the stable during the night: but after sunset the grooms, who were all Arabs, and wore white pieces of linen around their arms, to show their office, brought earth and strewed it around the yard, and fastened the horses with ropes, for them to sleep in the open air. In the morning these animals, about an hundred and twenty in number, most of them very fine Arabian chargers, were cleaned, and conducted to a large fountain in the yard to be watered, and were then suffered to return to the stable. The grooms carefully collected

the earth on which the horses had slept, and about a dozen little Arab boys gathered the dung and mixed it with the earth; this composition serves them instead of coals for cooking, as wood is very scarce all over Egypt. The ashes of these earthen cakes are thrown carelessly into the streets, where when heated by the burning sun they become pulverised; and as the slightest breeze is sufficient to raise this fine dust in clouds, it becomes very obnoxious to the eyes.

At eight o'clock they brought us a large bowl of goat's milk and bread for breakfast; as the Bey was indisposed, we could not see him till late in the evening. Early in the morning we had the honour of a visit from the treasurer and several other officers, who were very loud in their admiration of almost every thing they saw, particularly our pistols, maps, &c. Their hints were too broad not to be taken, and we made all of them presents of different articles. They requested very particularly to have our names written in English, although they could not read them; and were highly gratified by being presented with our printed cards.

In the afternoon we were accompanied by

the treasurer to see the town of Damanhur, which is a miserable place ; the houses are built of wood, only one story high, and have very small windows but no chimney ; all the doors were open, and the inhabitants sat at the entrance. Many families were spinning cotton, and others were dying linen with indigo, the blue colour of which was very clear and beautiful. Heaps of ashes lay undisturbed in every corner of the streets, which are irregular and narrow. The bazar, or market place, is a long narrow range of buildings, composed of barbers' shops, coffee and eating houses and dancing rooms, frequented by Arabian women ; their music consisted of a pipe and a kind of tabor, and the assembly was composed of about two dozen females, from fifteen to eighteen years of age. They wore nothing but a kind of blue cotton gown, cut so short both before and behind, that I could not help wondering at first how our present fashion could have reached them so soon. Both their feet and hands were bare, and their nails, eyebrows, and chins were dyed with indigo. They had very large iron ear-rings and bracelets painted blue ; so proud are they of these or-

naments, and of every thing painted this colour, that they wear these ponderous ornaments round their ancles : I even saw some who wore large rings in their noses. They were very troublesome, and continued dancing and jumping before us till we quitted the bazar.

The treasurer informed us that the town was partly fortified ; we requested permission to see the fort, provided it was not contrary to the usual regulations, to which request he willingly consented. After walking a short distance from the town, he showed us an old tower almost in ruins ; on one side was a kind of old brick wall with port holes, the road up to it was obstructed with a heap of mud and ashes. The artillery in the fort consisted of one dismounted field piece, and another of smaller size in the same situation, neither of which was loaded. Politeness would not allow us to smile at this mockery of a fortification, which two English soldiers, headed by a corporal, would have been sufficient to surprize and capture. After inspecting the military stores, we returned home perfectly overcome with the heat, and much annoyed by the ashes,

which were very painful to our eyes, for although the breeze was light they flew in clouds around us.

The people seem to have little or no idea of cultivation, as we saw very few gardens around the town, and these miserably laid out, with scarcely any fruit trees or vegetables. On our return home we were shown the bath of the Bey, which is a very elegant building, and does not at all correspond with the miserable appearance of the town; it is partly of white marble, and contains a large bathing room, a dressing room, and several smaller ones; the floors were all covered with mats and carpets, but the place was so heated that it was almost impossible to stay there without being suffocated.

We had scarcely reached home when we beheld a most pitiable spectacle, and a striking instance of the barbarity of the Turks. In the court-yard of the Bey we saw about eighty Arabian prisoners, of both sexes and of different ages; several of the men were very old and blind, and some of the women appeared so ill and faint as to be hardly able to stand. The poor wretches, together with the children who accompanied their parents, were chained

on the feet and neck with heavy iron fetters. It was truly a heart-rending scene! They were conducted by armed Arabians, who acted as a kind of constables, to the fountain in the yard, where they gave each prisoner a pitcher of cold water and a small allowance of black and badly baked bread. These unfortunate beings had no other crime laid to their charge but their poverty, in being unable to pay the exorbitant taxes the Bey imposed upon them. They are condemned to prison till they can discharge the debt, and this is generally for life, as the poor wretches have no resources left whereby to earn the means of payment. The Bey has two prisons at the entrance of the yard: they consist of large rooms, the floors of which are neither boarded nor paved; there are no windows, and only two small holes over the door for the air and day light to penetrate. These rooms are filled with prisoners, who hardly ever see the daylight or feel the fresh air, except when fed in the yard, and who are obliged to lie on the cold ground, which is cleansed only once a month. When it is considered that in one of these rooms there were seventy-six prisoners, all chained with heavy irons, some

imperfect idea may be formed of the misery and horror of the place. Here, not unfrequently, a blind and aged father may be seen expiring in the arms of his children, exhausted by want of food and fresh air; or a daughter overwhelmed with anguish at beholding the sufferings of her sickly mother, without being able to give her any other relief than sharing her sorrows and bathing her cheeks with ineffectual tears.

The establishment of the Bey is very considerable; he had in his seraglio twenty-six wives and concubines, besides a great many favourite slaves. His stud consisted of about fifty horses for his own use, besides about four hundred and fifty troop horses. The number of his grooms and slaves must of course be proportionably great.

In the evening, before supper, we took leave of the Bey, and thanked him for his kind reception. He appeared sorry that we were so soon to quit him, and told us that we should go up the Nile in his own boat; adding that as we intended embarking at Shebrachit, he would send orders there for his boat to forward us to Cairo. We accepted his polite offer

and retired to our rooms, where we were just preparing to retire to rest when we heard a gentle knock at the door ; it was repeated, our servant rose, and on opening the door, found—not an amorous adventurer from the not far distant seraglio, as may perhaps be anticipated, but our friend the treasurer, who was come to communicate a secret. Must I disclose this piece of Musselman scandal and tell you that this important secret was no less than a request that we would give him a bottle of rum, of which we had three field flasks filled and hanging in our room. I said they were filled—let me correct myself—they had been so, but several of those faithless Musselmen had paid more homage to them during our absence than to the Koran itself. At first we refused the request of our friend, apprehensive of the consequences ; but the enlightened Turk pressed so hard, and assured us so earnestly that he would only drink of it with great moderation and in case of sickness, that at last we consented to let him have half a bottle, telling him, however, at the same time, that we would keep it a secret only as long as he made

a moderate use of it, and that the moment he converted it to a bad purpose the Bey should be informed of it. He eagerly seized the bottle and placed it with much precaution in his pocket, highly delighted and repeating his sincere thanks.

The next morning we experienced another proof of the Bey's politeness. When our Greek interpreter went to engage asses for our journey, he speedily returned to inform us that the Bey had ordered some from his own stable for us, together with an escort, which was only waiting to know when we intended to depart. As we wished to avoid the heat of the day it was decided to start as soon as we had taken our breakfast. When we came into the court-yard we found the following cavalcade arranged: first, four of the Bey's head grooms, neatly dressed in white frocks, conducting a most beautiful Arabian charger, very richly caparisoned with a saddle-cloth of red velvet and gold. Our old friend the treasurer was chief officer of the escort, and he informed us that as the Bey could not ride himself with us he had sent his charger, which was almost an equal ho-

nour. Nothing could be more gay and splendid than the leader of the escort: he wore a green Turkish dress embroidered with gold, and a very rich sabre, whose handle glittered with precious stones; and we could perceive by his looks that his resolution had failed him in keeping the promise he made us the night before. Two other officers of the guard followed dressed in red, and about sixteen soldiers, some of whom were Mamelukes. Next came Mr. Maxwell, Mr. Buckingham, and myself, our servants following us; in the rear came a camel laden with provisions, and another carrying fresh water.

The kindness of the Bey exceeded our expectation, for when on the eve of departure our Greek went into the courtyard to distribute *backshish* (drink money), as is customary, to his surprize not a single person would receive a *para*, as they had positive orders from the Bey not to take any present, and it was with difficulty we could prevail on a few to accept some trifles. When we rode out of the town, the guard respected the Bey's charger, and did him the same honours as if he had been

mounted by his master. We were much annoyed the Arabs, who ran after us, particularly when we passed the bazar, vociferating *backshish! backshish!* We endeavoured not to notice them, but as our guard was a short distance in advance they became very troublesome, particularly an old fellow with two boys, who pulled me almost from the saddle. Seeing that we laughed and did not mind them, they wanted to make still more free by putting their hands in my pockets. This forced us to hail our guard, who perceiving the mob, sent three Mamelukes, who galloped back at the most furious rate with their drawn sabres, and immediately dispersed the whole crowd like so much dust driven before the wind, and in an instant not an Arab was to be seen.

You will be surprised that we should ride upon asses when we had nobler animals at our command; the reason was that we could not ride upon their very hard saddles, besides the bridles we brought with us would not suit their horses, as they need very strong bits, from the manner in which the Turks are accustomed to stop their animals when at full speed. It is not to be wondered at

that the officers did not wear the same dress as the soldiers, but rode in a plain Turkish costume : the fact is, that in Egypt, hardly two soldiers are dressed alike, and still less uniformity in this particular prevails among the officers. When we were about four miles from town, we requested the treasurer and guard to return, which he did after bidding us a hearty farewell, and leaving us an escort of two armed soldiers and two grooms to bring back the camel. Our escort stopped several Arabs driving asses laden with water melons to the market of Damanhur, and not only robbed them of as many as they could carry away, but were proceeding to beat them had we not strenuously opposed it. Whenever they meet the Arabs, they treat them in the most insolent manner.

The same day at two o'clock we arrived without any accident at Shebrachit. It is a small town situated on the Nile, consisting of only a few scattered houses. Our escort took us, according to the Bey's direction, to the commandant, with orders for his boat and boatmen to be at our disposal : the commandant received us very politely, and presented us with some water melons, of which our escort

partook with much avidity. At four o'clock the boat was ready, and our baggage being embarked, we took leave of the commandant, satisfied our escort and embarked for Cairo. The boat was long and narrow, but had the advantage of an awning and a good cabin: the floor was spread with a neat straw mat, and before the windows were green blinds neatly worked. Our captain and crew consisted of four Arabs. At half past four we were under sail with a fair wind. The Nile, in this place, is about a mile broad, the current very strong and the river rough. We passed many yemmas and other large Arabian boats covered with mats and full of Turkish and Arabian passengers.

Towards the evening our captain made fast the boat close in on the beach at the foot of a village, and went on shore to buy fresh milk. Many naked boys swam around our boat, and several girls came with large earthen pitchers to fetch water; the first thing they did was to wash their faces and hands, they then filled the pitchers and took them away upon their heads. As soon as we had taken our provisions on board we again made sail, and passed several villages delight-

fully situated on the borders of the river, and several fine groves of date-trees. We saw many mills on the banks worked by oxen and often by horses; the use of these mills is to draw up the water to irrigate the fields. About ten in the evening we stopped at the foot of a village to pass the night there. Our Arabs at supper time came on deck to say their prayers; they turned their faces towards Mecca, and at every minute prostrated themselves so low, that their faces almost touched the ground; they prayed very fervently and their devotions lasted about twenty minutes. We observed several Arabs on the banks in similar religious attitudes. The following day, as our boat stopped at a village to get fresh milk, we went ashore, but found the Arabs very savage: about half a dozen boys quite naked ran after us crying '*Nazari,*' and saluted us with a shower of stones. One of us would have been sufficient to have driven them away in a moment, but we had been cautioned never to beat these boys, as it only increases their fury; we returned to our boats and the Arabs fearing the consequences suddenly ran back to the village. We saw the fields co-

vered with wild pigeons, which flew in such large flocks as to resemble a cloud.

The river flows in a winding course, and the banks are generally low. The views are continually changing: in the space of a single hour we passed a small desert, and soon after a village with handsome groves of palm and date trees, which formed a beautiful landscape.

The water of the river is generally thick, but of a pleasant taste; the north-west winds, which usually blow from eleven till midnight, caused the current to be very rough. We made some inquiries about the price of horses in a village where there is a horse-market, an Arab told us we might have an Arabian mare and colt for the value of about ten to fifteen pounds sterling. We found very few fields that were well cultivated, as the land is generally parched and barren. On the third day we reached Bulac, a small town where the boats puts up to land the passengers going to Cairo.

We went on shore and were well received by Colonel Misset, the English Consul General of Egypt, and Major Taberna his secretary, both of whom were very attentive to travellers.

In the evening we proceeded to Cairo, which is about an English mile from Bulac, and went to the convent of the Holy Land, which is situated in the *Quartiere Franco*. Colonel Misset, to whom Mr. Maxwell had previously written, had engaged apartments for us in this place.

LETTER XVII.

*Convent at CAIRO.—Description of the Town.
 —Inhabitants. — Ophthalmia. — Environs.—
 OLD CAIRO.—Arabian Funeral.—Island of
 RAOUDA. — NILOMETER.— GIZEH.— Maho-
 med Bey.—Bedouin Arabs.—Pyramids.—
 Sphinx. — Mamelukes. — Eastern Nile.—
 DAMIETTA.—Polite Reception by the Eng-
 lish Consul.*

Damietta, August 1814.

WE had each a room at the convent, but as the accommodations were very indifferent, we had our dinners sent by an Italian, who keeps a kind of inn in the town. The monks dined precisely at twelve o'clock, which was rather too early for us: they keep a good table, and so great is their attention to travellers that they permit them to dine in their company at a moderate expense.

Cairo is a large but miserable town; the houses are mostly built of bricks, and two or three stories high, with wooden blinds before the windows: the streets are very narrow and

unpaved; the generality of them shaded with a kind of mat, fastened by wooden poles on the top of the house, which serves as a protection against the scorching rays of the sun. During our residence here the heat was intense. Not the slightest attention is paid to the cleanliness or wholesomeness of the town: we saw many dead dogs lying in the middle of the street, and others around them eagerly devouring the carcasses. The Turks and Arabs are very fond of these animals and keep a great many, but allow them to run about loose and seek their food where they can. There is no police to interfere in these matters, and every species of filth is thrown in heaps in the street, where it lies and infects the air around: hence we can be no longer astonished that the plague and other sicknesses should prevail here. Indeed, so many of the dead bodies of animals are seen scattered about the streets, that what is extraordinary in a great city, kites and other carrion birds are seen hovering over the most frequented places watching for their prey.

There are many fine mosques which are by no means of despicable architecture, as also a castle where the Pacha resides, and which

contains the various public offices. It is built on a rock without any attention to taste or architecture, and the greatest part is falling to ruins. The view from the top is very fine and commands a prospect of the towns of Bulac and Old Cairo. We were shown the famous well of Joseph; the water of which is very cold and clear, but we did not admire its taste: it is very deep, is surrounded with a low railing, and is descended by a flight of steps: it is said to have been formed in the year 1100. Cairo has several manufactories of sugar, glass, gunpowder, &c. The houses in the *Quartière Franco*, which I before observed is inhabited by the Christians, generally stand at the back of a yard, and some of them are very large and well furnished; but the *Quartière Turco*, as at Alexandria, is very unclean and the houses have a mean external appearance: having never been in any of them, however, I can convey no idea of the internal accommodations. The house in which the French General Kleber was assassinated by an Arab was pointed out to us. Most of the Franks, or Christian inhabitants, are dressed in the Levantine style; the women are rather handsome and graceful in their deportment,

but mostly pale and of dark complexions: their dress is very becoming. We were informed that they marry very young; indeed, of this we saw many instances in females, who at fourteen were already mothers of a family. They keep but little society and live very retired. Walking in the streets after sunset is as unsafe as it is uncomfortable, because the streets are very narrow and not lighted; added to this the state of the police is so bad, that thieves and assassins have every opportunity afforded them for perpetrating their deeds of darkness, many of which arise from the spirit of hatred entertained by the natives against the Turks.

We visited the bazar which is very extensive; but there appeared no order in the shops, and all was noise and confusion. The public baths are very good and much frequented, as the Turks are very fond of bathing; and, indeed, it forms by no means an unimportant part of their religious ceremony.

I could not exactly ascertain the number of inhabitants, but was assured that it amounted to about 260,000 souls. We were not a little uneasy on account of the opthalmia,

which unfortunately was very prevalent. We visited several persons who had the disorder, and were aware of its being very contagious; but it was impossible to avoid coming, in some degree, in contact with those afflicted with this malady, as there was hardly a house in the town exempt from it. We were very punctual in attending to the advice of some the old and experienced inhabitants. The most important, as before alluded to, was to keep the head constantly covered, and to bathe the eyes with vinegar and water: I knew several who were cured by this simple remedy. The inhabitants have an idea that short-sighted persons are not so much exposed to the ophthalmia as those who have a good sight. Several merchants informed me, that they had been often laid up for five or six months together with this disorder, and were constantly in the most excruciating pain.

The streets are very quiet during the night, as there is scarcely a person stirring. The Turks retire to rest at a very early hour, and at nine o'clock most of the inhabitants are already in the arms of Morpheus. The sound of bells is never heard in these countries; their necessity is superseded in the following

manner: a circular gallery is built round the turrets of the mosques, where Turkish boys are stationed, who, in a loud voice summon the Mahometans three times a day to prayers; at sunrise, at noon, and at sunset. They do not allow of watchmen, as their maxim is, "each one for himself, and God for us all." The votary of sleep may here enjoy the full luxury of undisturbed repose, as there is no midnight rattling of coaches, those vehicles being entirely unknown, for the only mode of conveyance is either on mules or horses.

The environs are pretty well cultivated. The Pacha and most of the rich inhabitants have country houses at Bulac, with neat gardens, well stocked with date and palm trees; they also cultivate the grape and a few vegetables. Few of our European fruits or vegetables thrive here, in consequence of the great heat and the constant dryness of the weather; of this fact I was assured by an eminent merchant, who had an extensive garden at Bulac. We went to pay a visit to Old Cairo, which is about an English mile from New Cairo; it is badly built, the streets are very narrow and unclean, and altogether

it possesses little to interest the traveller. The streets were crowded with Arabs and dogs. I should think it a dangerous place to reside in during summer, as the former are sure to propagate the plague, and the traveller can never stir abroad without a dread of the hydrophobia from the latter. We visited the Greek and Coptic convents here, but found no traces of antiquity in the churches: the few paintings which we saw were but indifferent; there were none marked by the touches of a master. We also visited a subterraneous passage under the church, which is an object deserving the traveller's curiosity.

Riding out of the town we heard the sound of a tabor, and observed a crowd of Arabian women, singing and uttering lamentable cries, and at the same clapping their hands, and leaping from the ground in the most violent and frantic attitudes. Seeing our cavalcade approach, they manifested every sign of displeasure at our intruding upon their tumultuous orgies, and did not fail to employ every threatening gesture to keep us at a distance. On enquiring the cause of all this, we were informed by our janissary that it was the celebration of a funeral.

Among other objects of curiosity, we paid a visit to the island of Raouda, or Rhouda, to which we crossed in a ferry over a branch of the Nile. It could formerly boast of some large buildings, but they were destroyed by the French and Turks during the late war. We also went to view the celebrated *Mekias*, or Nilometer, which has been represented in various designs: we descended two different flights of steps, and saw the column or instrument to measure the rise or fall of the Nile; it is erected in a kind of spacious well, the vaults of which are exceedingly solid, and the bottom on a level with the bed of the hill. The rising of this river begins early in June, but is not very perceptible till the summer solstice, when the waters become troubled, assume a reddish tinge, and are thought unwholesome.

We quitted Raouda, and crossed another branch of the Nile to Gizeh, or Gizah;* it is a small town situated on the western shores of the river, very irregularly built, with no

* A celebrated traveller gives it the appellation of *Geeja*, as derived from the Arabian word *geeja*, which signifies a passage, because there was formerly a bridge at this place.—Vide Bruce's Travels, vol. i, page 41.

other ornament than the minarets of two mosques and some palm trees, but its situation is very fine. Mahomed Bey, who resides here, has a large house, to which they were making considerable additions; the house itself is but one story high, but the spacious stables and numerous outhouses give it an imposing appearance. Travellers who intend visiting the pyramids stop at this place to obtain an escort, as a protection against the Arabs, who are the terror of the deserts in which these wonderful productions of human art are situated.

We were provided with a letter from Colonel Missel to the Bey, and were received with great politeness; he is a man of no small consequence in these parts, and dignified by an alliance with the daughter of the Pacha of Alexandria. He invited us to sup with him and pass the night in his palace. Our supper consisted of a *pillau* and some pigeons. We had not, it is true, the numerous attendance and the variety of dishes, as at the house of Ali Bey, but then we had no treasurer to do the honours of the table, and that made ample amends for the deficiency. About nine o'clock our ears were saluted with the horrid

noise of several miserable pipes and tabors ; we were politely informed that this elegant concert was the *tattoo*, with which they were favoured every day, but that it was prolonged this evening for our particular gratification.

The following morning, at the early hour of three, we set off with our escort, consisting of an officer, nine Turkish horsemen well armed, together with three Mamelukes, on our way to the pyramids, which are eleven miles from Gizeh. Our company rode undisturbed out of the town, and passed several houses on the road, surrounded by spots of cultivated ground, where the natives seemed busily employed in agriculture. At the distance of about two English miles from the pyramids we entered the deserts of Lybia. The officer of our escort pointed out several Bedouin Arabs hovering around us at a distance, and observed that they were not very friendly, even to the Turks, and therefore that the traveller had but little mercy to expect from them. These Bedouins were nearly naked : their only covering was a kind of loose blue cotton garment that hung over their shoulders. The officer detached a picquet of two Mamelukes and four Turks, to reconnoitre

near the pyramids and see if the coast was clear; they rode off at full gallop, and in a short time returned with the agreeable information that they had seen only two Arabs, and those not near the spot. We set off at a brisk canter, and soon came in full view of these wonders of a former age, which being situated on a rising ground, presented the most imposing spectacle I ever beheld. The view of these stupendous monuments, that have outlived the destruction of nations, the fall of empires, and the ravages of time, fills the soul with mingled awe and admiration.

At length we arrived at the foot of the largest of the pyramids, and made the tour, contemplating it with feelings which it is difficult to define. The stones that compose it are of a yellow colour, and so piled that they serve as a kind of staircase, and can be mounted without much difficulty. On the side which fronts Cairo there is an entrance, and an Arab, who was known to the Turks, came with a torch to show us the way. This passage resembles a cave: you continually descend on an inclined plane, in which notches are cut to stay the foot from falling. After moving in this manner backwards for

above twenty paces, we found the passage grow narrower, till we came to a second kind of entrance, which was so low that we were obliged to creep through upon our hands: this was a very disagreeable task, as the air was quite suffocating. After clearing this narrow passage, we came to two large rooms of an oblong form, entirely composed of granite. Several enormous masses extend from one wall to the other, and form the roof; at the end of the interior hall lies a sarcophagus formed of a single block of marble, which the curiosity of some persevering visitant has wrenched open to examine the contents. After viewing these caverns, which the cheering beams of day and the enlivening breezes of heaven have never visited, since the ages past that beheld the closing stone sink over the orifice, we returned by the same disagreeable path by which we entered, and were happy once again to breathe the pure air.

We saw the names of numerous visitants written over the entrance; among the rest those of Lady Esther Stanhope, Mr. Bruce, &c. were plainly distinguished.

After observing every thing that was in-

teresting we visited the lesser pyramids, and traced the site of many ruined temples, where it is conjectured offerings were made for the princes whose bodies were deposited in these superb mausoleums. On returning to our escort we found some of them seated around the entrances smoking, while others were preparing coffee for us on our return. This is a luxury which in expeditions of this kind should not be forgotten: the Turks had loaded a camel with all the necessary apparatus for preparing it, as well as with other refreshments. We saw the huts of an Arabian village at a considerable distance, and several Arabs were straggling about the plain, but did not venture to approach us. One poor fellow of this tribe, attracted as I suppose by mere curiosity, for he came alone, approached the spot where we sat. The Turks called to him to come up the sand-hill; he complied, and the officer of the escort gave him five of the horses to hold while they were smoking and drinking their coffee. When they were about to depart the officer ordered the Arab to be brought before him, and asked him very sternly what was his business here? He said he should not have come up the hill if they

had not called him. The commanding officer observed that he was sure he had come with no good intention, and ordered two Turks to seize him. The poor wretch knew what he had to expect, and immediately threw himself on his knees, crying for mercy, and begging them to let him go about his business, at the same time kissing the hands of the Turkish soldiers with the most abject submission ; but all this did not satisfy the officer : he threw him down, the two Turks stripped him of the only miserable covering he had on, and the former began to beat him with a stick in a most unmerciful way. We interfered and obtained the poor fellow's liberty ; and no sooner did he find himself free, than he started off like a hare pursued by a pack of hounds, and never once thought of waiting for his clothes. The whole band of Turks pursued him with stones and with loud shouts and peals of laughter. We were disgusted with this brutal and cowardly scene, and no longer wondered at the ferocity with which the Arabs treat their oppressors. We then pursued our journey to the Sphinx.

The first view of this colossal wonder filled us with admiration : its body is buried in the

sand, and only the head, neck, and a part of the back are visible. It appears to be formed of a single stone, and to have been hewn from the rock on which the pyramids are built. Its height is more than twenty-seven feet above the sand. Though the proportions are so colossal, the general outline and effect produced by the figure are pleasing and graceful; the expression of the face is mild and benevolent, and the character strongly African. When we reflect that the fanaticism of the Turks has destroyed the eyes and nose of this figure, besides various other acts of mutilation, and yet consider the effect produced even in its present state, it cannot but give a high idea of the progress of sculpture at the time it was executed. The inhabitants of Giza pretend that a staircase was discovered in the body of the sphinx, by which the priests entered to deliver their oracles; and others have imagined that it was connected with the pyramids by means of a subterraneous passage. I believe there is about the same degree of foundation for both these conjectures.

Having gratified our curiosity with the sight of these wonderful remains, we returned to

Gizeh by the same road we came, and were happy to repose from our fatigues in the palace of Mahomed Bey. Our stay here was but short, as the guards and other servants of the Bey were at once imposing and impertinent: they had all received the presents usual on such occasions, yet watched every opportunity of exacting more; it would therefore have been proper to have represented their conduct to the Bey, but we did not wish to interfere, as it might only have served to expose us to greater insult. We took our leave, recrossed the two ferries, measured back the way by Bulac, and returned safe to our lodgings in the convent of Cairo. The weather was exceedingly sultry, and we were severely annoyed by the hot sand, it may therefore be imagined that the sight of our airy lodgings was not a little refreshing.

During our excursion we had frequent opportunities of observing that great jealousy and hostility existed between the Turks and the Mamelukes. As we were on our way to the pyramids a Mameluke, who spoke a little Italian, observed to us that the English did very wrong to come to Egypt merely to chase the French away. 'Are they not Christians,' he

observed, ‘and men, who like yourselves cultivate the arts and sciences? why did you not rather attack the Turks, who are hostile to your religion and your arts, and destroyers of the remains of antiquity?’ We smiled at the man’s simplicity, and were surprised that the officer, who also knew a little Italian, made him no reply.

We hired a boat for eighty piastres, Egyptian money, about eight guineas, to take us to Damietta. It was manned with five Arabs, and the captain promised to cover the boat with mats, and afford us every other accommodation for our journey. After taking leave of our good friends Colonel Misset and Major Taberna, we set sail: the wind was not very favourable, but we dropped down with the current, which was very strong. We took our course along that branch of the Nile which is called the Eastern Nile: it is narrower than the Western branch, which leads to Alexandria, but the banks were more interesting; the country was in general very fertile, and afforded many very picturesque views. We went on shore at several places, and the principal towns we touched at were Mansoura and Miet Kammr: the former is a

considerable town, with a handsome mosque, and supplies the markets of Damietta with a considerable quantity of rice. The houses, as in all the Egyptian towns, are miserable, both in their external appearance and their internal arrangements; the streets, it is true, are broad, but they are piled with ashes and filth. On our entering the place the Arabs flocked around us, and wished to shew the sincerity of their regard by shaking hands, and fatiguing us with their usual string of complimentary inquiries.

During our course down the river we several times struck on sand banks, particularly on one about five miles from Mansoura, from which we had some difficulty to extricate ourselves; this is a proof that the Nile is not navigable by vessels of any considerable burthen, or at least that the Arabs are perfectly ignorant of its soundings. We met nothing but a few small boats laden with rice for Damietta. In our course we were delighted with several bursts of beautiful scenery, that were constantly varying as we followed the windings of the Nile.

After a voyage in this pleasant way, of two days and two nights, we arrived the third

day, at six in the morning, off Damietta, where we were hailed by a boat bearing the English colours at the stern. We were asked, if any English *milordi* were on board, and on replying in the affirmative, the boatman said, he was despatched by the Consul to fetch us on shore. We were not a little gratified by the mark of attention thus shown us, got into the boat, and made for the shore. Near the bank of the river we found the English Vice-Consul seated on a mat with his secretary waiting to receive us. On our approach he rose and saluted us, at the same time informing us that he had received notice of our intended visit from Colonel Misset, and had been here two days waiting for us. We made our acknowledgments for this more than common attention, and sat down to breakfast with him. The Consul is a native of Damietta, and succeeded his father, who was a rich merchant, besides his appointment to this public capacity. His name is Surur: he is a handsome young man and was dressed in the Turkish costume. Both he and his secretary spoke tolerably good Italian. About ten o'clock we embarked for Damietta, and to give some importance to our embarkation, an Arab was

such as I think likely to interest you.

ordered to fire a swivel the moment we entered the boat ; this salute was not fired without considerable bustle and annoyance, and was an honour we could well have dispensed with. The day was delightful ; we rowed smoothly along, and enjoyed the fine view of the gardens near the town. On our arrival before the Consul's house, which is situated in front of the harbour, we were received with a second salute, still more formidable than the first, as three guns on the wharf were fired off in honour of the occasion, to the no small astonishment of the gaping inhabitants, who flocked in numbers around us.

Damietta is a considerable town, very pleasantly situated on the banks of the Nile, and has some good broad streets, but the generality are narrow, and not at all remarkable for cleanliness. Several of the houses are very splendid in their external appearance, but the architect has shown much less attention to their internal accommodation ; particularly to the staircases, which are so contrived as totally to exclude day light : add to this, that little is done for the comfort and convenient division of their apartments. Among the best houses are those belonging to the Bey,

to our hospitable host Mr. Surur and to Mr. Facker, the French consul. The former was originally a soldier in the ranks, and has risen by his bravery to the high station he now holds; the latter is of Arabian extraction, a person of very considerable talent. We understood he was establishing a printing office in the place, and was, with the assistance of his secretary, translating Telemachus into the Arabian language.

Damietta can boast of several very handsome mosques and manufactories. The port can only admit small vessels, which lay before the town, as the sands drift and render anchorage insecure; all large vessels are therefore obliged to load and unload beyond the bar, a distance of about eight English miles from the town: there is a good custom-house situated about half way. The environs of the place are chiefly planted with rice, which is the principal article of their trade. The climate is considered as very unhealthy, and scarcely a year passes without witnessing some ravages committed by the plague. We do not intend to be idle during our stay here, and therefore in my next you may expect all the particulars I can collect, at least such as I think likely to interest you.

LETTER XVIII.

*Plague at DAMIETTA.—Visit to the Bey.—
Environs.—Departure for JAFFA.—Boc-
caze.—Poor Arab.*

Jaffa, August 1814.

It is not a little fortunate, that we are now entitled to consider ourselves as seasoned to the climate of the East, otherwise we should certainly have been sufferers by that of Damietta. The plague, it is true, had just ceased ; but, like the vivid flashes of lightning after a storm, the scattered remains of its fury served to show, how tremendous it must have been when it reigned in all its violence. Nay, we were assured that there were some bad cases still lingering in the town, but they were kept profoundly secret. One is no longer disposed to wonder at the prevalence of this dreadful malady, when, in addition to the uncleanliness I have before described, is added a variety of other evils, among which the

swarms of rats and mice, of more than European size and audacity, which infest every house, are not the least. Add to these myriads of pulce and musquitoes, and the picture of misery will be compleat.

The town cannot boast of a single inn; and therefore travellers are obliged to take up their residence either at the Consul's or at the convent, which latter place is wretchedness itself, as I can testify by woeful experience; I could exclaim with Eneas,

..... *Quæque ipse miserrima vidi,
Et quorum pars magna fui.*

Accompanied by Mr. Surur, we went to pay a visit to the Bey, who received us very politely. On our entrance he condescended to stand up, which to a Christian, we were informed, was no common honour. We smoaked a pipe and took a cup of coffee with him, which among the Turks are the usual testimonies of good will and politeness; after sitting with him for full half an hour, and being treated with sherbet, we retired. We saw him again in the afternoon, riding in the square that fronts his palace; he was mounted

on an Arabian charger, which appeared very ungovernable, and was amusing himself by hurling a lance at a mark, while at full gallop.

The following day we rode out with the Consul and his secretary, who is a native of Smyrna, to see the neighbourhood of the town which is very fertile, and laid out in a variety of extensive gardens, apparently well kept, and stocked with abundance of fruit. We visited the place where they prepare the rice : it is an extensive establishment, and the Arabs appeared very expert and expeditious in the different operations through which it had to pass. On our return to the town we paid a visit to Mr. Facker, who acts as a French, Prussian, and Swedish consul, and is on the very best terms with the Bey ; indeed he is deputed by him to settle any differences that arise among the inhabitants, in quality of general arbitrator.

Having seen all that appeared to merit our curiosity, we fixed the time of our departure, and engaged the cabin of a vessel of considerable burthen, for one hundred and eighty Egyptian piasters, nearly twenty pounds of

English money. She belonged to the Bey of Jaffa, and lay outside of the bar, laden with rice and fruits. The Consul was so kind as to offer us the use of his boat as far as the custom-house, and was polite enough to accompany us thither, together with his secretary. The boat was covered with an awning, green blinds protected us from the beams of the sun, and cushions were placed in the middle, on which we sat smoking and enjoying our coffee. Nor were we without entertainment on the passage, for the rowers, and particularly a lad with a fine clear voice, treated us with several Arabian songs; this lad, who was about sixteen, generally chaunted the air, and the rest united in no contemptible chorus.

Having reached the custom-house, where we found the captain of our vessel waiting to take us on board, we took leave of our good friends with every expression of gratitude for their polite attention, and embarked with our captain in an open boat, accompanied by several other passengers, who were going on board the different ships lying in the roads. There were more than six and twenty of these boats waiting for a fair wind.

to pass the *boccaze*.* After laying about half an hour waiting for a fair wind, a breeze sprung up, and all the boats got under weigh, each sailing in the wake of the leader. As we approached the *boccaze* our Arabs grew very noisy, and manifested every symptom of alarm, particularly at one moment when it was thought we had actually touched the shoals. Our captain behaved with great presence of mind; he immediately slackened

* The name of *boccaze* is given to a moving sand-bank, formed by the sea at the entrance of the Nile. When the tides are low this is very dangerous, and many lives and vessels are lost in the attempt to cross it. It varies very considerably, according to the different circumstances of the tide, but in general is found to be about the eighth part of an English mile in length, and very variable in its breadth. The Arabs stand very much in fear of it; they always keep a pilot or *boccaze* master stationed near the spot, to guide vessels in their passage in and out of the Nile. The people in this boat are constantly measuring the depth of the water, and making signals to the boats where to pass, which they generally do in a line one after the other. The tide runs very strong over these shoals, so that the water is quite yellow with sand, and at the same time the breakers are so high, that if a vessel touches, she is almost immediately filled with the sea, and the crew have but little chance of escaping.

sail, and in a voice of firmness ordered every Arab to keep to his post. The alarm was not without foundation, yet owing to the cool-firmness of our captain we ourselves steered clear of danger, but the boat next to us, which was rather more deeply laden than our own, unfortunately struck, and we left it in great danger, as the sea ran high and the waves began to break over her sides. It was surprising to observe the apparent indifference with which our Arabian seamen and passengers viewed the perilous situation of their companions ; no observation was made upon the circumstance, not a single suggestion was offered as to the propriety of attempting to afford assistance ; each one seemed so totally wrapped up in the ideas of his own particular danger, as not to have a single thought to spare for his friends : ‘ *occupat extremum scabies,*’ seemed a maxim perfectly native to an Arabian mind.

The situation of boccaze master is of great importance, and is obtained from the Bey at a kind of annual rent, which he clears by a small contribution of from eighteen to twenty-four *paras*, about three-pence English, upon each passenger, according to their situa-

tion and generosity. When he came on board our vessel to receive his usual fee, a poor Arab, covered with rags, acknowledged that he had not a single *para* to pay either the boccaze master or the boatmen. When one of the Turkish passengers heard this, he told him he was a great rascal to come on board without any money, and threatened to flog him: the Arab hearing this, affected to fall into fits and made a horrible noise, to the great amusement of all in the boat; but as soon as he found the Turk appeased, he recovered himself and sat quiet in one corner of the boat.

On reaching our vessel, we were not a little surprised to find the deck covered with Turkish soldiers and officers, besides more than fifty other passengers, who were most of them miserable Arabs covered with rags, and of the most pitiable appearance. The captain had very prudently avoided giving even a hint of this motley group of fellow passengers which we were to encounter; he had certainly acted "prudently in his generation," for had we been aware of the circumstance, we should certainly never have thought of engaging his vessel. At first we thought it would be better to forfeit the passage money

than expose ourselves to the danger of catching the plague and undergoing all the inconveniences which must be inseparable from such fellow travellers; but the captain was very urgent in his request that we would come on board, protesting he would use every exertion to make the passage agreeable. He solemnly assured us the Turks had forced themselves on board during his absence, and in proof of it declared, he should not receive a single *para* from any of them for their passage. As there was no other vessel bound for Jaffa, we were obliged to yield to necessity and go on board. The cabin was half filled with the baggage of these intruders, but we had the good fortune to secure it exclusively to ourselves, as none of the Turks or Arabs were permitted to come down: it was tolerably spacious, but not very remarkable for its convenience; for there were no windows, and the two holes that supplied their place were stopped by wooden shutters, or dead lights, that served at once to exclude both air and light, added to which there were neither tables nor seats: our attendants however were sufficiently numerous. The ship was laden with rice, and the cabin was filled

with rats and mice, who were not a moment inactive. Annoyed as we were below, we had the additional consolation of reflecting that we could not walk on deck, as it was literally strewn with Turkish soldiers, who are so abominably filthy in their persons that it was not possible to come near them with any regard to personal cleanliness.

We were, however, agreeably surprised to find that the Turks behaved uncommonly well during the passage, which lasted four days: the captain of the troop was even attentive to his fellow travellers between decks; he told our interpreter that any thing he had on board was at our service. This man laid on a mattress on deck like his soldiers, but he had not been inattentive to his comfort in other ways, having provided a store of coffee and fowls for his own use, so that both at dinner and supper the favourite *pilaw* was an unfailing luxury. He preserved great discipline amongst his troops, though it was sometimes carried to severity: he had one of his men severely flogged on account of his singing aloud on deck before he was awake. The commander of our ship informed us that this officer had been dissatisfied with the

Pacha of Cairo, and had left his service with the whole company he commanded, who were so attached to him, that they all joined him to go and offer their services to some of the Beys who were not on good terms with the Grand Signior.

This account was confirmed on our arrival at Jaffa; for no sooner had we reached that port than the Bey sent word that the captain and his company were not permitted to enter the town, and that as soon as they were set on shore, which must be at the distance of at least two miles from the town, they must all discharge their fire-arms. These terms being accepted, he sent a large boat and landed them at the appointed place, where we heard the discharge of their muskets, and afterwards saw them march towards the interior of the country. The evening before our arrival at Jaffa the captain came by chance down to the cabin, and found us reading, with our candle placed on one of the barrels, with which the cabin was partly filled. Seeing us smoking, which we were obliged to do to counteract the effects of the bad air, he very coolly requested us to be careful with the candles

and pipes, as the barrels, which we thought full of rice, were all filled with gunpowder: we were very angry that he did not mention the circumstance the first day, to keep us all more on our guard, and particularly the Turks. It was on the fourth day in the morning that we dropped anchor half a mile from shore, near a ledge of rocks, termed the bar, that forms the entrance to the port of Jaffa. Although we lay in what in our seas would be called a perilous situation, yet we were in no danger, as our vessel, though of about two hundred tons burthen, drew only a few feet water, having been built purposely to navigate these seas. The surf beat with great violence upon these rocks, and the breakers ran high, which gave the port a very rough and forbidding appearance.

We went on shore an hour after our arrival, having previously sent our interpreter with a letter to the English Vice-Consul, Mr. Damiano, to enquire where we could be accommodated with lodgings. It was not long before he came back, with the Consul's request that we would stay at his house, as there was no inn in the town, and the convent

where travellers generally lodge was still performing quarantine, as the plague had only ceased to rage within a few days. We found the residence of the Consul a miserable one indeed; it was badly built, old wooden shutters supplied the place of windows, while a few broken chairs, a decayed sofa, and a miserable bed, were all the furniture it could boast.

The Consul is polite, and wishes to be considered as attentive towards the English. He is a native of Jaffa, but having been a considerable time resident in Marseilles he speaks good French. We could hardly refrain from smiling at his first appearance in our room: he is about fifty-eight years old, and wore a long trailing *robe de chambre* made very loose after the Levantine fashion; the colour, it would appear, had once been red, but age and dust had rendered it of doubtful hue. He wore large black slippers, but no stockings, an old fashioned waistcoat, black small-clothes, and a very large three-cocked hat, exceedingly Quaker-like in the brim. He had large black mustachios and whiskers, and long black hair hanging down on each

side of his face and tied behind in a thin long tail; his complexion was dark, and his features by no means attractive; in short, a more strange and whimsical figure I never witnessed. His favourite topic of conversation was matrimony, and he confessed that although he had lately been mortified by a refusal from a lady at Alexandria, he was determined again to range himself under the banners of almighty Love, to try if Hymen would smile propitious to his vows. We heard that the object of his second flame was a lady of Cyprus. His son, who was dressed in the Levantine manner, was a good looking young man of about twenty-two; he was tolerably conversant in Italian, and appeared anxious to render us every service in his power.

Near the Consul's house there is a kind of platform, on which four pieces of cannon were mounted, and a guard of about twelve soldiers stationed. In the court-yard lay two small field-pieces, which, we were informed, the Bey brought from El Arish. These military preparations announced that he was engaged in a kind of warfare; it proved to be with several villages near the town, which had

refused to pay the exorbitant taxes usually exacted in these parts. A firing which we could very distinctly hear shewed that he was actually besieging one of these villages. The Arabs defend themselves with much bravery in these contests, which frequently cost the Turks no inconsiderable number of men.

LETTER XIX.

*JAFFA and Environs.—TURKISH Extortion.—
The Bey.—Useful Advice to Travellers.
—Departure for JERUSALEM.—BEDOUIN
ARABS.—EL RAMA.—Convent.—Chateau-
briand.*

El Rama, August 1814.

JOPPA was the ancient name by which Jaffa was distinguished. It was fortified in the thirteenth century, but no remains of its strength are preserved. It is a considerable town, situated on an eminence; the houses are of a whitish stone, and the windows, which are differently formed from those in Egypt, give them a more cheerful appearance. Many buildings have balconies or galleries in front; those on the sea side are agreeably situated and enjoy very beautiful and commanding views of the sea, with all its variety of aspect; now under the cheerful radiance of the rising sun, now mellowed by the softer beams of evening; sometimes clear and smooth as an immense mirror, at other

times dashed into foam against the rocks that form the bar of the harbour. The streets are broad and generally unpaved. The harbour is very bad, and may without injustice be called the worst in Syria: large ships are obliged to lie outside the rocks at least a mile from shore, where they are exposed to the fury of every gale; only small boats can come close to the wharf. We saw various species of fish in great quantities near the shore, many were of a large size; but the Turks and Arabs seldom take the pains to catch them. The bazar exhibits a variety of the most luxuriant fruits and vegetables; the water melons in particular are of superior quality. The environs of the town are very fertile, and adorned with many fine gardens, which produce quantities of dates, lemons, citrons, oranges, grapes, water melons, and vegetables.

The Turks of these parts are very unfriendly to travellers and pilgrims, who generally land at this place on their way to Jerusalem, and are always exposed to insults and impositions. During our stay a ship under the Ottoman flag brought a great number of these

devotees whom the Turks refused to fetch on shore, though they were only about half a mile distant, unless each passenger consented to pay the enormous sum of two piastres and a half, about five shillings English. But there was no other means of getting ashore, the demand was imperious, and they were obliged to pay it in spite of their just remonstrances.

The Bey bears a very indifferent character; he is of a cruel disposition and much feared by the inhabitants. It is to be regretted that there is no consul in this town, to offer his assistance and discountenance the extortions which are exercised towards the Christians. An English vice-consul is the only person of this description in the place, and even he stands in such awe of this man, that he is obliged to retreat to his house as often as the Bey makes his appearance in the neighbourhood. On our expressing surprise at this circumstance, he observed that this haughty Musselman paid no respect to the imperial firman, as he is not on friendly terms with the Porte. The consequence was, that the consul himself was forced to pay taxes like a common Christian. When he

complained of this treatment, and presented his firman from Constantinople, no attention was paid to it, and the only answer he received was, 'you are a Christian dog, and the person that sends it you is no better.' Mr. Damiano expressed his sincere wish that an English armed vessel would show itself in these seas, as it would soon bring the Turks to reason, so much do they stand in dread of a visit of this kind.

It is advisable for Europeans who are proceeding to Jerusalem, not to change their dress, as the Turks and Arabs easily recognize a Christian under any disguise, and are disposed to respect him less than in his own garb. It is also more prudent for them to leave all their fire-arms at the convent at Jaffa, as the Arabs are more inclined to annoy those who come prepared to make a resistance than such as go unarmed. We deposited a certain sum of money at the convent, and the superior furnished us with letters for Jerusalem and Rama, besides horses and an Arabian guide, who belongs to the convent and is kept for that purpose. He was dressed as an Arab, with the exception of a blue vest with red crosses on the back. Wherever travellers

are necessitated to pay tribute, the guide does it for them, as otherwise they would be exposed to every kind of imposition. On our return the superior of the convent made out our account, and returned us the balance. We made the servant a compliment of a sequin over the amount, and another to the interpreter of the convent, with which they appeared perfectly satisfied.

It was about the middle of August when we left Jaffa for Jerusalem, attended by our Greek, Antonio Spiro. The environs of the town are very sandy but well cultivated, displaying gardens and fields covered with date and palm trees. About four miles from Jaffa we saw a very fine tomb of a *Sheik*; it stands in the middle of the public road, and is of freestone painted white; on the left of the road is the usual accompaniment of these tombs, a fountain of very good water. On leaving this spot we passed an immense plain, on the left of which we could discover a village of Arabs, and two others on the right. These we carefully avoided; but the precaution availed us little, for we had scarcely entered the plain when we encountered a party of Arabs, armed with long pikes and cut-

lasses. They were dressed in a kind of white cotton frock, made close to the body and reaching nearly to the feet, with blue turbans. They were tall and fierce looking, with swarthy complexions and long beards. They came upon us at full gallop, with their pikes in their hands, ready to attack us should we make any resistance. Our guide told us to ride gently along, while he advanced to meet them. They surrounded him, and we heard them very clamorous in their debate. After riding on about ten minutes, we had the satisfaction of seeing our guide return; he told our interpreter they were Bedouin Arabs, who are very inimical to the Christians. He informed them we were *Milordi*, and travellers to Jerusalem; they observed that they never saw animals dressed up as we were, alluding to our European dress.

After advancing a few miles farther we reached the environs of Rama, through a very fertile country, intersected with many hedges and adorned with fine avenues of date and palm trees. We rode straight to the Spanish convent, which is situated to the right of the town, and is an elegant building

enclosed with strong walls and surrounded by a spacious gallery, at which a monk appeared at our summons and demanded to know who we were? As soon as we had answered his question the door was opened, and we entered the yard, which is spacious, and surrounded by a kind of cloister or colonnade, formed of pillars of brick, which were overgrown with the creeping verdure of the strawberry ; so that the place had a very cheerful appearance, and served as an excellent retreat from the scorching rays of the sun. The chapel is ornamented with good paintings ; the convent contains several very tolerable apartments, and a good refectory, the only fault of which is, its being rather dark. There is also a fine garden, stocked with fruit-trees and vegetables, with a terrace, which commands a view of a considerable part of the town of Rama. Fronting the terrace stood a magnificent date-tree, loaded with fruit : this is the identical tree so much admired by the celebrated Chateaubriand, whose ' Itinerary ' is full of fine writing, and warmed with that enthusiastic feeling which a man of his genius could not but

experience, in beholding scenes so full of great and overwhelming recollections.

There are now only two monks in this convent, who are both Spaniards; the superior is well informed, but rather reserved in his manners, the other is quite the reverse, being very talkative, and yet possessing a very limited stock of information: he told us his parents wanted him to be a soldier, but that he disliked the profession of arms and preferred the cloister. They have a cook and several servants: the convent is clean and kept in good order.

LETTER XX.

Description of RAMA.—Features of the Country.—Bedouin Arabs.—Prince of the Mountain.—JERUSALEM.—Convent.—Adventure there.—Female Curiosity.

Jerusalem, August 1814.

RAMA, or Ramula, is ten English miles from Jaffa, and between twenty and thirty from Jerusalem. It was formerly a considerable town, but is now a miserable place, hastening rapidly to decay : many of the houses are deserted, and the few that are still inhabited are mostly built of mud ; the streets are irregular, but broad. There is a good mosque and a castle, which we could see from the balcony of the convent. The superior told us that two Arabs had been buried a few days before, who had died of the plague : that on this account he would not advise us to walk much about the town ; nor was this his only reason, for he was aware that the inhabitants are not very friendly towards the Christians ; we were, therefore, obliged to

content ourselves with the view that presented itself from the convent, which was indeed extensive and beautiful. No part of the Holy Land is more fertile than the plain around Rama, which forms a part of the great field of Sharon, so frequently and so beautifully alluded to in the poetical parts of the sacred writings. This fertile plain lay extended like a map below us, and was bounded by the blue mountains in the distance.

The superior advised us to travel during the night, that in crossing the mountains of Jerusalem we might avoid the violent heat of the day, and what was a still greater inducement, might pass unobserved by the Bedouin Arabs who infest these places. We followed his advice, and having supped and rested for a few hours, started at midnight from the convent on mules, which were rough-shod, to render our passage over these steep mountains more secure. We were accompanied by a brother of the guide who came with us from Jaffa.

It was a fine clear night: the moon was up, and every thing around us was hushed in calmness and repose. For the first four hours we had a good road through a flat country;

at half past four in the morning we began to ascend the mountains, and the road grew rough and fatiguing. More than once we heard the alarming cries of the Arabs, and the answering shouts of their companions amidst their mountain retreats. As day-light began to dawn, we saw clouds of smoke rising from the spots where they had lighted fires during the night, and could distinctly hear the barking of the numerous dogs, who are their constant companions. At five in the morning we met several Arabs dressed in long white frocks, with long muskets suspended on their backs ; they regarded us with very savage looks as we passed, but allowed us to proceed unmolested.

The road became worse as we advanced. Some of the mountains we passed were very steep, and scattered with the ruins of immense buildings. We passed over dilapidated walls and stone staircases of considerable extent, and blocks of marble of prodigious size lay scattered along the side of the road. Some of the descents are very dangerous : and although our mules were accustomed to the path, they were frequently unable to keep a secure footing.

We passed a village to the right belonging to an Arab, who calls himself the Prince of the Mountain; it appeared to be considerable: the fields around it were very fertile, and covered with vines, interspersed with crops of tobacco, water-melons, and linseed. The road is kept in very good order near this village, but the Christians must pay a tribute to the Prince, for permission to pass his territory; and as the place is situated on a narrow defile of the mountains, he can easily shut up the passage. He has the character of being at once cruel, haughty, unrelenting, and addicted to rapine. The monks, in particular, stand in great dread of him: they informed us, that as he is aware they gain something for their attention to travellers, he often plunders and insults them when they pass his territory. Our guide proceeded to the village, to satisfy the demands of this self-appointed despot, and told us to continue on our way, as he would shortly overtake us. We had hardly advanced thirty paces, when we perceived his Arabic Highness the Prince of the Mountain, accompanied by several of his attendants, who were armed and well mounted. On seeing us they halted, at the

part of the road which turns off to his village. He was a stout good looking man, with an immense black beard; his dress was a white cotton frock, with a sash and a blue turban, and he as well as his attendants was smoking with long pipes. As our guide had left us, we were on the point of taking the wrong road: he perceived this and called aloud, *Helcods*—Jerusalem—at the same time pointing out the right way. We observed that he smiled when our small caravan passed him; but whether it was a smile of complaisance, or of contempt at our being a booty below his notice, it was impossible for us to determine. We were shortly after joined by our guide, and continued the road.

At about a mile from this village the mountains began to assume a more gigantic aspect, and even as early as eight o'clock the heat became very oppressive; there was not a breath of air stirring, and no tree in sight to offer us a moment's shelter. We continued our route exposed to the heat of the sun till about ten o'clock, when we reached a covered fountain with a short Turkish inscription on the wall; we drank a little of the water, which was very bad and brackish, but we

were so exhausted that even this proved a luxury, as was also the shade of the wall that overtopped the fountain. One must travel through these sultry and shadeless wastes, to be practically convinced of the force and beauty of the frequent comparisons and allusions to fountains and streams that occur in the sacred writings.

We could catch no glimpse of Jerusalem till our guide told us we were only a quarter of a mile from it: our expectation was raised to the highest pitch. So many grand and interesting recollections, so many tender and affecting associations are connected with the name of Jerusalem, that we looked eagerly at every turning of the road, to catch the first glimpse of its turrets. It was on the 14th of August 1814, at three-quarters past ten, that we had the happiness of first beholding the walls of the sacred city. The first glance at this much desired object of our pilgrimage acted as an electrical shock upon us all; we forgot our fatigues and hastened forward with new alacrity.

At a short distance from the gate called the gate of Jaffa, we passed several ruins of magnificent buildings, which forcibly attested the

truth of that solemn denunciation, that "not one stone should be left upon another."

The first objects we saw within the gates were three Turkish soldiers, who guarded the entrance, and were smoking their pipes with a degree of unconcern, that struck us the more forcibly as our own curiosity was raised to so high a pitch. Our guide discharged the customary tribute that all Christians are obliged to pay on entering the town; but before he had scarcely settled with them, they assailed us with the usual salutation of *bachshish*, or drink-money: we remained, however, deaf to their clamours and rode on.

On entering the sacred city we were struck with the desolate appearance of the place; the voice of labour was not to be heard, and the streets appeared entirely deserted. We were quite overjoyed at meeting some Christians in the Levantine dress, who ran after us and saluted us with "*ben venuti!*"—welcome. Several others opened their windows as we passed, and saluted us in the same friendly manner. At length we reached the door of the convent of St. Salvador, and, as we had letters of recommendation for the superior, we decided on taking up our residence there.

Our guide requested us to set down in a spacious hall, while he went to seek some of the inhabitants of the convent.

We needed rest, having suffered much from the heat of the day; and our minds were overwhelmed with emotions, which it would be impossible to describe, on finding ourselves on that very spot which had witnessed the accomplishment of Revelation, as it had originally listened to its announcement. We felt disposed to reverence every stone beneath our feet, and were meditating on all the wonders of the past, as contrasted with the present state of the holy city, when to our surprise and mortification we were awakened from our sacred reveries by a monk, who was so intoxicated that he could hardly stand. We enquired if we could have rooms in the convent, and gave him our letters for the superior; but instead of answering our enquiries, he burst into a fit of laughter, and uttered a torrent of nonsense in miserable Italian. Out of patience with this drunkard's impertinence and brutality, we called aloud for some other person to give us the information we wanted, when, to add to the scene,

we were saluted by another monk as drunk as his companion. They did nothing but laugh, and were so stupified that it was impossible to make them understand us. At length we snatched our letters from their hands and sent them by our interpreter to the president ; scarcely refraining from chastising their insolence, which was doubly annoying at such a moment, while our minds were exalted and our imaginations awakened by the sensations produced on beholding this sacred city. We were, however, in a great measure, relieved from the unfavourable impression that had been made on us of the convent by the arrival of the secretary, a well informed and well educated Italian, who told us that the superior was very ill with a malignant fever and could not receive us, but that he would make us as comfortable as it was in his power to do. He requested us to ask for whatever we wished, and begged us to pardon the persons who had so much disgusted us ; one, he told us, was a monk that acted as a servant (*padre servente*), and the other his assistant, who had availed themselves of the superior's in-

we decided on taking up our residence there.

disposition to make free with the wine in the cellar.

We were then conducted to two rooms in the old house at the extremity of the yard. A deep well stood in front of the door, on which I saw carved the name of Bruce, with the date 1812: the other door was also inscribed with several names, among which, John Gordon 1792, was yet distinctly legible. Being much fatigued, we retired to rest for a few hours, but had hardly fallen into a slumber when we were disturbed by a loud knocking at our door and windows. We rose and found the yard in front of our apartments filled with Christians of both sexes, dressed in the Levantine style. It was a visit of friendly congratulation, which, however, at such a time we could willingly have dispensed with. They all came and shook hands with us, at the same time greeting us with "*ben venuti.*" Most of the women wore gowns of a red colour, some of which were ornamented with narrow silver lace on the border; their hair was plaited and hung down their backs, and to the end of each lock was attached some gold coin: several wore similar ornaments round their heads and necks, but all

were covered with long white veils. Some were very handsome, though their complexions were rather pale. Very few spoke Italian, their general language being either the Arabic or the Turkish. Some of them pretended that they came to fetch water from the well, but it was not difficult to see that the stronger motive of curiosity, so all-powerful in the female mind, had attracted them to the spot; others informed us that they had been to prayers in the convent. Among our other numerous visitants was a German soldier, who spoke a little English; he had taken refuge in the convent, and told us a long story about his having been a soldier at Malta, but that he had deserted from thence and come to Cairo, where, forced by want, he had entered into the Pacha's service, and embraced the Mahometan religion. His pliability of conscience had not availed him much, for he confessed he had been so cruelly treated by the Pacha, that he found it necessary to run away, and had come here to be received again into his ancient faith; but the Bey of Jerusalem hearing of it, had claimed him from the convent: the superior, however, had refused to surrender him up, as it was a privilege of

the house to protect every Christian within its walls. He wished us to take him as a servant, that he might be enabled to escape in disguise; but as neither his story nor his appearance were much in his favor, and as he had no testimonials of his character to produce, we refused his proposals, the acceptance of which would have exposed us to many difficulties.

LETTER XXI.

View of JERUSALEM.—Church of the Holy Sepulchre.—Via Sacra.—Temple of Solomon.—Christian curiosity punished.—Environs of the Town.—Tomb of the Virgin.—Valley Jehosaphat.—Ravages of the Plague.—General Remarks.—Bazar.—Rapacity of the Bey.—Climate.—Return to JAFFA.

Jaffa, August 1814.

EARLY the next morning we repaired with the secretary to the terrace of the convent, from whence we had a fine view of Jerusalem and its environs. Below us lay the church of the Holy Sepulchre, and at the south-eastern extremity of the farther walls towered the dome of the temple of Solomon with all its display of Saracenic pomp. The various stations of the Redeemer's passion were carefully pointed out to our notice; nor were the house of Pilate, and the spot where our Saviour was presented to the people with the "*Ecce homo*," forgotten. The magnificent assemblage of

domes, palaces, churches, and monasteries which this ancient town presented to the view, were bounded by the bold declivities and towering heights of the Mount of Olives to the east, and the aspiring summits of Mount Sion to the south: between these the eye occasionally caught a glimpse of the sparkling streams of the brook of Kedion.

We visited the interior of the convent, which is very extensive, and can boast of superior accommodations to those usually found in the east. There is a fine church attached to it, and a library of books, few of which, however, appeared to be valuable; the greatest part have been presented to the convent by travellers and pilgrims.

We heard with sorrow that the plague still continued to rage at Bethlehem, and that some symptoms of this calamity yet prevailed even in Jerusalem: this intimation served to put us more on our guard. The superior informed us that he had that very day received the melancholy news from Bethlehem of a monk, whose name was Josephus Andreus, and who was an Italian by birth, having fallen a victim to its influence. He told us this person had been only a year in the convent,

that he was a man of very good education, and not above twenty-six years of age.

We went, accompanied by the interpreter of the convent, and a Janissary, or Turkish soldier who acts as a kind of guard, to visit the church of the Holy Sepulchre. We were, however, obliged to send to the Bey to ask permission to see it, as the Turks never open it to the christian travellers without a permission, and a tax of fifty piastres of Egypt, about three guineas English money. It is a large and magnificent building, and with the exception of some of the pillars and the front, remarkable for the curious basso-relievo work over the door, is mostly modern, the building having been partly destroyed by a fire in 1810. The first object pointed out to our notice on entering, was a slab of white marble on the pavement, surrounded by a railing; this, we were assured, was the spot where the body of the Saviour was anointed by Joseph of Arimathea. We next entered a kind of circular chapel, erected under the centre of the dome: the sides were formed of verd-antique marble, and the entrance was covered with the same. Twenty-one silver lamps were hanging around this sacred spot, which

is believed to contain the tomb of Jesus Christ, and several vases filled with flowers stood on a white marble slab near it. The sacred tomb itself was covered with two planks of a mahogany colour, and guarded by an aged monk. After we had performed the usual ceremonies at this venerable spot, and satisfied our devotional feelings, we returned into the body of the church, and after having examined it went to pay a visit to the chapel. Here we were shown a part of the true cross whereon our Saviour was crucified. The guide pointed our attention to a black wooden cross which stood on a kind of rock. This, he told us, split itself as soon as the cross above it was found; we examined the rock, and observed that there was an opening, but we were perfect heretics in our belief respecting the rest of the story. He also showed us part of a window, where, he said, the Virgin Mary was placed to see the Saviour, when he passed on his way to the scene of his sufferings. At the entrance of the Greek chapel they gave us a small wooden cane to touch a piece of stone almost covered with wooden planks, which they say supported the cross

whereon our Saviour was crucified : the Greek monks came to touch the stone with a wooden staff, and then kissed it, while others were singing psalms and carrying lighted tapers. In this building there are vestries for every separate sect, who have their distinct chapel, and where a monk of the convent sleeps every night in the vestry of the chapel he belong to. Although there is no window in the church, it was perfectly well aired, and sufficiently lighted in every part by the lantern at the top of the building.

I was agreeably surprised at meeting a gentleman in the church who addressed me in German : he informed me that he was a native of Vienna and physician to the late Queen of Sicily, and that he had come from Constantinople to visit these sacred relics.

On quitting the church we went to see the *via sacra*. As the learned have been much divided in their opinions on this sacred spot, it is not my intention to enter into a controversy, already sufficiently ambiguous. In returning we passed through several narrow streets almost entirely deserted, and piled high with filth, which the lazy Turks never

think of removing, but leave to the action of the sun; thus engendering, in all human probability, a second pestilence.

We came to a large building which was mostly in ruins, and whose entrance was guarded by five Turkish soldiers, to whom our janissary made a present in order to obtain permission to enter. On asking what was our guide's object in bringing us to this miserable spot, he informed us that there was no other place from which so near and so full a view could be obtained of the temple of Solomon, that forbidden object to which no christian is permitted to approach. The building, which we entered, was about fifty steps from this celebrated spot, so that we had an excellent view of the existing structure, which edifice is supposed to cover the scite where the ancient temple stood. The present building is called the Mosque of Omar, from the name of the founder, who was a rich Turk of Damascus in the seventh century. One of the Turkish soldiers told us that he had often been in the mosque, and that there are many antique pillars of red and white marble in the best state of preservation. The white wall which surrounds the buildings

precludes any thing like a connected view of the proportions of the edifice; but we could not repress our admiration at the magnificence and grandeur of the dome, and the beauty of its extensive arcades. The Turks told us, that it was certain death for any christian to be found in the interior of the mosque. They related to us that many years ago a christian obtained a firman of the Grand Signior to examine the interior, and having arrived at Jerusalem he presented his document to the Bey, who told him that he certainly was bound to respect the firman of Constantinople, and that therefore he was at liberty to enter the temple. After remaining for some hours in the interior, and having fully satisfied his curiosity, the christian wanted to quit the place, but he found the door locked, and was informed that the firman gave him permission to go in, but not to come out again. The Bey kept him shut up till night came on, and then caused his head to be cut off, and his body to be buried beyond the walls of Jerusalem.

We afterwards inspected the gates of the town; that by which we entered, called the Jaffa gate, is partly in ruins. It is built of

free stone, and occupies the site of the ancient temple of David, where the Turks have erected a kind of castle. We next visited the castellated walls, which are of no great thickness, and but little calculated to resist the efforts of modern warfare. We afterwards made an excursion to Mount Sion, and inspected several very curious antique tombs with Greek and Hebrew inscriptions; these are situated on the side of the mountain, where it slopes off to the valley of Jehosaphat. From this place we proceeded to what is supposed to be the tomb of the Virgin Mary: it is in a plain near the Mount of Olives, but there is nothing to be seen except an excavation in the earth covered with two wooden planks, with no ornament round it. The valley of Jehosaphat lay before us, and we crossed the bridge over the Kedron, which at this season was a scanty stream, but is often swelled to a torrent by the collected waters of the neighbouring mountains. After viewing what are called the remains of the sepulchres of Jehosaphat, Absalom, and Zacharias, we returned to the convent.

As the plague still raged with violence at Bethlehem, it was impossible to visit that

town ; we were therefore obliged to satisfy ourselves with a glimpse of it from a distance. It was also our wish to have visited the Lake Asphaltes, or the Dead Sea, but the bands of Bedouin Arabs that infest the neighbourhood render the journey very dangerous. We applied to the Bey of Jerusalem, who had the conscience to ask us two thousand piastres for an escort ; even which sum, we were informed, would not be sufficient to insure us a safe journey, or to stimulate the Turks to any thing like expedition : we consequently gave up the plan, and determined, after taking a more minute survey of Jerusalem, to return to Jaffa. What tended to lessen our regret at not beholding objects so interesting to the traveller, and obliged us to adopt the latter decision, was the intelligence that the plague was again gaining ground, that a christian child had actually died of the infection that morning, and that several houses were still under its influence.

Historians have determined with great probability, that modern Jerusalem occupies only a part of the site of the ancient city. The mount to the south of the modern city is marked with the remains of several

extensive edifices ; it is therefore most likely that this mount is the Sion of the ancients, and was included in the Jerusalem described by Josephus. We found several portions of the town uninhabited and in ruins. Most of the streets are narrow, the houses low and miserable, and the path obstructed with filth. The main street, however, is an exception to this, as many of the houses are lofty and well built. The peculiarity of their construction is that they are entered by a wooden staircase, which projects in front, and the lower stories having no windows give the street a singular and gloomy appearance. From this want of a free circulation of air, added to a general deficiency in cleanliness, it is not to be wondered that this, as well as the other towns we passed through, should be periodically visited by one of the greatest calamities that can afflict humanity.

In our way we entered the bazar, which was very thinly attended ; few of the shops were open, and little or nothing exposed for sale. Supposing from some questions that we were desirous of making purchases, we were visited on the following morning at our convent by several Jews and Arabs, who

offered us a variety of shells and mother-of-pearl crosses for sale, some of which were of tolerable workmanship. As we had inquired whether they had any antiques in their possession, they returned with a collection of old seals and every other *vertu* that had the appearance of being ancient. An Arab very gravely presented us with a seal that had belonged to one of the late French Consuls, and though it had the arms of France and the words "*Consulat François*" engraved upon it, we could not persuade him but that it was a valuable antique—a convenient error, in which his ignorance of the inscription served to confirm him.

The number of the inhabitants is now reduced to about six thousand. The Christians suffer much from the avarice and cruelty of the present Bey, who exacts from them, particularly from the convents, the most exorbitant contributions; and though, from their poverty, they are unable to answer his demands, yet nothing induces him to mitigate the severity of his exactions. I am informed that, very lately, he obliged one of the convents to pay in the short space of four days six thousand piastres; the interpreter of the

convent went and remonstrated with him on the impossibility of raising that sum in so short a time, but he remained inflexible. On the fourth day they brought him a purse of four thousand piastres; he haughtily asked them if it was heavy? or, in other words, if it contained the whole sum he expected, or otherwise he would not accept it; and on learning from the interpreter that the sum imposed could not be obtained at that short notice, he threw down the purse with indignation, and immediately ordered the oldest monk to be imprisoned till the full amount should be paid: at the same time he gave the convent to understand, that if the sum was not made up in a few days, the monk should receive the punishment of the bastinado every twenty-four hours. This savage threat induced the convent to make every sacrifice, to obtain the freedom of their old companion; by an effort the sum was raised, and their interpreter sent with it, when to his astonishment the Bey received him coldly, and asked him how it happened that he was enabled to bring the money now, and not at the time appointed. To punish the convent, for what he was pleased to call their want of attention,

he refused to deliver up his prisoner till two thousand piastres were paid, in addition to the sum at first demanded : and the convent only succeeded in relieving their companion, by paying the enormous sum of eight thousand piastres into the hands of the Bey. We met him the very day we left Jerusalem, attended by an escort of about twenty officers and soldiers, who were all on foot and well armed. As he is not more liked by the Turks than by the Christians, he never goes out without a numerous escort, and seldom ventures beyond the gates of the town, for fear some of the emissaries of the Grand Turk, should be in waiting to carry him off. He appeared to be rather a good-looking man, about forty years of age : he wore a blue velvet dress richly embroidered, and had a dagger at his side, studded with diamonds and other precious stones ; but the costume of his escort was by no means in unison with that worn by their chief : like Falstaff's soldiers, they were in truth a motley group. He stopped, and gave us an invitation to come and see him ; but as our departure was fixed, and every thing arranged accordingly, we were forced to decline this honour.

The climate of Jerusalem is regarded by the inhabitants as unhealthy; the heat during the summer months is intense, and hardly a breeze to be felt, owing to its inland situation and the high mountains by which it is enclosed. The country is besides subject to long droughts, the sky is for months without a cloud, and thunder storms are almost unknown. The place is generally visited once a year by the plague, and many malignant fevers are prevalent in the autumnal season. We saw but few insects, and hardly any musquitos or grasshoppers. The immediate neighbourhood of the town is very barren, so that this place almost entirely depends on the neighbouring villages for its supplies; but the vallies that lie at about two or three miles from Jerusalem are very fertile, and produce abundant crops of tobacco, wheat, barley, Indian corn, figs, olives, melons, cucumbers and pumpkins; the vine also seemed in a very thriving state, and its produce can boast a very rich flavour, not unlike that of the muscatelle.

After satisfying our curiosity, by visiting such other parts of the town as were pointed out to our notice, and making presents to the

interpreter and janissaries of the convent, we took our leave. It was with no common feelings that we quitted this sacred city, the scene of so many wonders; a spot endeared to the heart of Christians by such high and holy associations, and to the mind of the philosopher, as being the cradle of a new religion, which has had so beneficial an influence on the habits, the opinions, and the feelings of mankind.

Our journey lay towards Rama, which place we reached in safety, though encountered by several parties of Bedouin Arabs. On repassing the territory of the Prince of the Mountain, our guide informed us that he must go into the village, to pay the usual tribute exacted from all travellers; he requested us to ride on, saying he would shortly join us, but to our surprise he was gone more than an hour. We remained waiting for him about two miles from the village, but growing impatient, we dispatched our Greek to learn what detained him there so long. Several Arabs, seeing Mr. Maxwell and myself alone, began to insult us; one of them tried to snatch my cane, but, aware of their purpose, I turned short and he was dis-

appointed. They used a thousand threatening gestures, and spit at us, exclaiming ‘*marrah ! marrah !*’ and vociferating many other abusive expressions. As we were without arms, and the Arabs were six in number, besides several others that were still in sight, we thought it prudent to ride on gently, and wait the event with coolness. We saw them standing in a circle, and casting frequent glances towards us, so that we fully expected it was their intention to attack and rob us. At this moment our Greek appeared at full gallop, and being dressed in the Turkish uniform and armed, they were frightened at his appearance, and saluting him as he passed with ‘*salem alikum,*’ went quietly about their business. Shortly after our guide made his appearance, and pretended he had been detained by the chief of the village ; but our Greek informed us that he found him seated with the most perfect ease enjoying his dinner.

The misconduct of our guide proved a serious inconvenience to us in more than one way, for the delay obliged us to pass the greatest part of the bad road among the mountains after night had set in, which neces-

sarily exposed us to many accidents, and it was very late before we reached the convent of Rama. During our journey we were almost constantly in sight of the watch-fires of the Arabs; the whole horizon appeared in a flame, and the heights on both sides were covered with different parties of marauders, who were constantly calling to each other. There was something inconceivably wild in this night's scene in the East, and to a mind like Chateaubriand's it would have supplied abundant imagery, and possessed a thousand charms. As for ourselves, to acknowledge the truth, we were so extremely unpoetical, as to imagine that these yells only added to the horror of the night. This conviction became still more forcible, when our guide requested us not to speak a word, but to ride slowly on, as we were close to a party of the enemies we dreaded; however, we had the good fortune to pass unobserved.

We rested a day at the convent of Rama, took the precaution to change our guide, and the following morning returned to this town. On our near approach to the gate, we perceived the Bey seated on a mat, attended by a numerous suite. Our guide was particularly anxious that we should dismount, and

lead our horses by the bridle, till we had passed him and his retinue: but he could not convince us of the propriety of such an arrangement, and we passed him on horseback, at the same time greeting him as we drew near, by placing our right hands on our breasts, which he, as well as the officers near him, returned with all due civility. We repaired to the house of Mr. Damiano, and despatched our guide to the convent, to inform the superior that we had fixed our departure for the following day, when we intended to sail for St. Jean d'Acre, and therefore requested him to send us our account. The superior did us the honour to come himself, and brought us the estimate of the expenses of our trip to Jerusalem, for Mr. Maxwell, myself, and the Greek servant, which in all amounted to 187 piastres 13 paras.* In addition to this, we paid two sequins

* The following is a copy of the account above alluded to:

	<i>Piastres. Paras.</i>	
For expenses at the convents, and for mules		
from Rama to Jerusalem, and back	137	13
For the different guides, &c.	50	0
	<i>Piastres</i>	187 13

The piastre values about two shillings English.

for the interpreter, and for accommodations at the convent of Jaffa; and, what will appear extraordinary to those accustomed to the spirit of rapacity and discontent prevalent in more polished nations, they all appeared perfectly satisfied. The superior took our sequins at thirteen piastres each. It would be injustice to this good father, to take our leave of him without expressing how much we felt gratified at his conduct; and we cannot do the traveller in the Levant a more essential piece of service, than by warmly recommending him to his notice.

LETTER XXII.

Departure for ST. JEAN D'ACRE.—Residence with the English Consul.—Description of the Town.—Climate.—SAIDE.—French Consul.—Fête of St. Louis.—Inhabitants.—Description of the Place.—Christian Physician.—The Port.

Saïde, Sept. 1814.

AFTER taking leave of Mr. Damiano, his son, and several of his relations, we embarked in a species of open vessel, called a *yemma*, which was crowded with Turkish and Arabian passengers. The boat was of about seven tons; she had no cabin and carried only one large sail: we paid for our passage forty *piastres* of the country, about five pounds sterling. Although the breeze was fair and moderate, the sea was so rough, and the current to the south so strong, that our vessel laboured very hard, and the greater part of the passengers were in that condition to which those in general are reduced, who are unaccustomed to the sea. This circumstance, in

consequence of the great crowd, was by no means agreeable. We never lost sight of the Syrian shore, and at eight o'clock the same evening arrived in the port of Acre. We had been thirteen hours at sea, the last three of which had delighted us with a view of the sacred heights and varying appearances of Mount Carmel.

On arriving we were informed that no passengers were permitted to go on shore, without the permission of the Pacha. Mr. Malagamba, a gentleman who is a native of Geneva, and acts as English consul, immediately obtained permission for our landing; but most of the other passengers were obliged to sleep on board the boat. We went to the residence of the Consul, and experienced the most hospitable welcome. The house, of which he inhabits a part, is one of the best in the place; it is a large building, three stories high, with spacious balconies which look into a large and airy court yard. This building is of sufficient extent to accommodate ten families besides that of Monsieur Pillavert, the French Consul: it belongs to the Pacha. We visited the French Consul, who is a native of Picardy,

and both he and his secretary appeared to be men of education. We also visited the Austrian consul, who is an amiable man; but we were sorry to find him overwhelmed with domestic affliction, having just lost a beloved wife. We had a letter of recommendation to him, and were received very cordially. The mention of his native country, through which I had so lately passed, seemed for a time at least to rouse his drooping spirits; he smoked a segar with me and entered freely into conversation, as if anxious to forget his sorrow.

Acre is the handsomest town I have seen in this part of the world: the houses are almost all built of stone; most of them two stories high, with regular windows and flat roofs, but without chimnies. The streets are broad, but like most of the towns of Syria are unpaved: the bazar is extensive and well provided with all kind of vegetables; besides which, there is a spacious market for corn, fowls and cattle. We saw many extensive buildings of ancient architecture, several mosques and churches, together with a synagogue. The house of the Pacha, which is situated near the sea, is the old palace of the Grand Master of St. John of Jerusalem;

it is an extensive building, but by no means elegant: there is also a fine stone bridge, which serves as a communication with the Pacha's palace. The harbour is spacious, but a ledge of rocks renders the entrance rather dangerous; yet it is esteemed one of the best ports in Palestine, and is frequented by ships of considerable burden. The walls of the town are constructed in the castellated style, and it must have been formerly very well protected, but its fortifications, like all others in Syria, are rapidly hastening to decay. In 1759, this place suffered much by an earthquake, and considerable traces of its destructive ravages are still visible. The trade of the town consists chiefly of corn, linseed, and olives, of which abundance are produced, its immediate vicinity being very fertile. Mons. Pillavert, who is a good sportsman, tells us there is abundance of game in this neighbourhood. The climate is tolerably healthy, but the heat very intense. This may seem extraordinary in a town situated on the sea side; but there are many days when it is not refreshed by a breeze, and the reflection of the sun from the glassy surface of a waveless sea is insupport-

able. There is no house in this town for the accommodation of travellers, and as the convent is in miserable order, and can boast of nothing to invite the stranger, the only alternative for him is to apply to his Consul. The Pacha is friendly towards travellers, and allows himself to be entirely guided by his prime minister, who is a Jew and much liked by the inhabitants.

We engaged our passage for Saide in the same boat that brought us from Jaffa. We embarked at day break and sailed with a fair breeze, but had not been long at sea before the wind began to freshen and the boat tossed violently. She was deeply laden. We were frequently in danger of falling overboard from the roughness of the sea, and the pitching of the vessel, particularly as we were obliged to lie upon the sacks of corn with which she was filled. We were never out of sight of land, during the whole passage; but though we had a favourable wind, it was late in the evening when we anchored. Learning that there was no convent in the place, nor any European agent, except a French Vice-Consul, we sent to him, requesting permission to come on shore. Mons.

Tailbault, for such was his name, not only used his immediate influence to obtain this favor for us, but kindly offered us a part of his house. It is a very large building, with a fine terrace, which commands a beautiful and extensive view of the sea; this house was formerly a convent. On the terrace were planted three cannons, which the day after our arrival were employed in firing a *feu de joie*. We found that the fête of St. Louis was the occasion of it, and assisted at a grand mass which was performed in honour of this canonized worthy of the house of Valois. After mass a salute of ten guns was fired in honour of the reigning sovereign. Many of the Christian inhabitants, both ladies and gentlemen, the former dressed like the ladies in Jerusalem, and the latter in the Levantine dress, came to congratulate the Consul on this festive occasion. A variety of refreshments were set out for these visitants, of which they partook and then retired. Some spoke a little Italian and French, but they were not very talkative. Few of the ladies were handsome, and none showed any taste in their dress. The generality had fine black hair, which they wore platted in long folds,

from which various pieces of gold coin were suspended, and as a farther personal attraction they had their nails died blue. The Consul lives on very good terms with the Bey : a sufficient proof of this is the privilege of having cannon planted before his residence, and permission to fire them ; an honour very rarely granted to Christians in this country.

Saide is a small town, badly built. The houses are low, mostly built of stone, and, as usual, with flat roofs and no chimney : we saw few that were more than two stories high. The streets are narrow, unpaved, and, in point of cleanliness, not at all superior to the other towns we had visited. We saw very few good buildings ; some of the superior order have the convenience of a fountain of fresh water in the centre of the court-yard, and are surrounded by a kind of veranda, where the inhabitants spread mats and enjoy the luxury of coolness and repose. We visited a Christian physician, whose house is built in this way : among his patients he included several Turkish families. In prescribing to these haughty followers of Mahomet, he has not much to fear, his physic being per-

fectly innocent; and if he does not often cure, at least he is not likely to kill his patients, his whole pharmacopœia consisting of herbs and salves.

The town is defended by a castle, which, however, is not very strong. The palace of the Bey is extensive, and occupies a fine situation near the sea. The port is now very bad, and from its exposed situation by no means secure; large vessels are obliged to anchor a quarter of a mile from shore, near a ledge of rocks, which forms the bar, and only small vessels can approach the wharf. A little attention on the part of the Turks might have rendered the port navigable to larger vessels, but they are such enemies to improvement that no attention is paid to the interests of commerce. The only article this town exports to Europe is cotton, and this trade is far from being considerable: in fact, very little remains to remind the traveller of the riches and splendour of ancient Sidon.

It was our intention to have visited the celebrated ruins of Palmyra, but unfortunately we were disappointed in this as in many other objects of our research. The alarming ac-

counts we received here of the prevalence of the plague in the various countries through which we should have been necessitated to pass, deterred us from prosecuting our intended plan of penetrating farther to the East; we were therefore obliged to turn our thoughts again towards Europe.

LETTER XXIII.

*Arrival at LARNECA.—Lady ESTHER STANHOPE.
—Malignant Fever.—English Consul.—
Climate.—Inhabitants.—Greek Wedding.*

Larneca, September 1814.

MR. Taitbault, the French Vice-Consul, having informed us that a brig under Russian colours was shortly to sail for Cyprus, we thought it best to negotiate for a passage, and succeeded in obtaining it, although at the enormous sum of three hundred piastres, better than thirty pounds English. The captain was a Greek, from Corfu, and the greater part of the crew were of the same nation. The day before our departure the French Consul introduced us to a Christian in the Levantine costume, who during the late war acted as interpreter to Sir Sidney Smith, and is now major-domo to Lady Esther Stanhope, who for several years past has been tra-

velling in the Levant. He informed us that she was in a convent near the Druse mountains, where she had been confined by indisposition, from which, however, she was fast recovering. When this lady visited Saide she wore a Turkish dress, and rode an Arabian charger, to the astonishment and admiration of the Turks, who hold her in the highest estimation, and we heard in many places that she was actually imagined to be an English Princess.

We took our leave of Mr. Taitboul, from whom we experienced every civility during our residence in Saide, embarked on board the brig, and sailed with a fair breeze. We soon found that our vessel was very old and leaky, and at the same time a very dull sailer. Though the distance from Saide to Larneca is only from eighty to ninety English miles, yet, incredible to relate, we were no less than six days at sea, being driven about by contrary winds, and having a strong current against us. On the sixth day we dropped anchor in this harbour, which is esteemed by no means secure, it leaving vessels much exposed to the heavy gales, which at particular seasons set in regularly at a certain time of

the day. It is now about a fortnight since we anchored in this port, during which time only three days have been exempted from the violent gales. On more than one occasion we have seen vessels drifting from their moorings, and running foul of other ships, but we heard of no serious accident.

On our arrival we sent our Greek on shore with a letter of recommendation to Mr. A. Vondiziano, who is a native of Cyprus and acts as English Consul. He returned very shortly with the information that the island was extremely unhealthy, and that a malignant fever was raging there with such violence that hardly a house was exempted from its destructive influence. We heard with sorrow that the Consul, together with his wife, four of his children, and several servants, lay infected with the malady. He advised us to consult our own safety, and to quit the island as soon as we could find an opportunity. We were informed that a brig under English colours from St. Maura, loaded with cotton, was to sail in a few days for Malta. We made an agreement with the captain for eighty Spanish piastres (about twenty pounds), stipulating that he should put us on shore at

the island of Cerigo, and that we should be permitted to live on board his brig during our stay here, in order to avoid sleeping on shore and exposing ourselves to the infection. We were assured that many ships in the harbour had the fever on board, and that several sailors had fallen victims to it. We were also sorry to hear that many European vessels were prevented from sailing, the greater part of the crews being sick or disabled.

We shifted our quarters from the Russian brig to one named the Mahomed, Captain Spiro Patrizio, where the accommodations were considerably better. The following day we were invited to dine with the English Consul; we rowed on shore and found his cabriolet waiting for us. This species of vehicle is much used by the inhabitants; it is drawn by one horse, and has an awning over it to keep off the scorching beams of the sun: the driver is seated at the feet of the passengers, so as not to incommode them. The Consul received us very politely; he lives at about an English mile from the *Dogana*, or Custom-house, in which quarter all the Consuls and most of the respectable inhabitants

reside. His house is large, and though but one story high has abundant accommodation. He reserves the front part for the use of such travellers as are recommended to him, and it is not difficult to see that he shows a marked attention to those of the English nation. He is well educated, and speaks French, Italian, and modern Greek with almost equal fluency. Though most of the Consul's family were invalids, we escaped all contagion by proper precaution and by smoking tobacco.*

We were also well received by Mr. Howel, an English merchant, who has married a lady of the island, and lives near the *Dogana*.

We paid a visit to the French Consul, an engineer officer, who was appointed to this office at the time Buonaparte landed in Egypt; he is a well informed man, but appeared to be of a melancholy disposition. We could not help noticing the immense old military cocked hat which he wore even in

* M. Vandiziano showed us the rooms occupied by Colonel Rook, who died at Baffa, a port in this island. It may be well for his relatives to know that he had left a variety of trunks, &c. in his apartments.

the house, and which had a singular appearance contrasted with the other part of his dress. He lives on very good terms with the Bey, and had influence enough to prevail upon him during the war to interdict the exportation of corn to Malta. There is but little on the island of Cyprus to make the traveller regret his not touching at it, although there are a great many antiquities around Larneca, yet the jealous Turks will not permit any person to make researches. Besides the climate is very dangerous, and the passage to Europe very long and tedious, in consequence of the strong currents and the westerly winds, which set in from May to November, followed by very sudden easterly gales, which are always boisterous. It would be much more advisable for the traveller to keep a direct course for Europe ; but should chance bring him to this island, he had better not embark before November, but take up his residence either at the English consul's or at the house of Mr. Howel's mother-in-law, who speaks a little Italian. The latter house is spacious and well built. It is kept on the plan of a boarding house ; cleanliness is tolerably well attended to ; the general accommodations are good,

and the hostess seems solicitous to contribute to the comfort of all who are her inmates.

Larneca, or Larnec, is the most healthy port of the island. Baffa, Famagusta, and Nicosia, are highly dangerous to the European, who is very likely to find his grave there, if he visits these places during the sickly season, which is from June to October. The view of the town from the bay is very picturesque: it spreads out in the form of a crescent, and has a great variety of beautiful scenery in the neighbourhood. The houses are built close to the wharf, which is a central situation of much bustle and business. Here are two coffee-houses, a billiard-room, and a variety of shops mostly kept by Europeans, who are all dressed in the European manner, as is the case with most of the Christian natives of the islands. It recalled pleasing associations to us to see hats again, instead of the turban, to which we had so long been accustomed. The female part of the inhabitants generally adopt the Grecian costume; they wear their fine long black hair according to the fashion already described, and are habited in long dresses of yellow or green silk, trimmed with gold or silver lace; the old women wear short

sleeves with a profusion of ruffles ; but the young ones cover their arms and do not use these ornaments : they wear white muslin or silk petticoats, and red or yellow shoes. Yellow half boots appear to be a kind of distinguishing mark between the higher and lower classes. The women of this island, once consecrated to love and celebrated for beauty, are generally tall and well shaped, but of a pale complexion ; they are conspicuous for their fine blue eyes and well turned hands and arms, and are graceful in their persons, though the stoop they have in walking takes from the elegance of their carriage. They wear less covering on their bosoms than a European eye could reconcile with decency. They marry very young, and it is remarked that after this a few years are sufficient to blight their beauty ; they then begin prematurely to look old, and grow careless of their persons.

A few days ago we were present at a wedding of the servant of the English Consul, a native of Larneca, with a pretty looking girl of the same place. There was some disparity of years between them, as the bride-

groom was about forty and the bride only eighteen. We had no sooner entered the room, than we were presented with a large wax taper, with which most of the guests, who sat on benches round the room, were provided. Coffee and wine were handed round; and shortly after our arrival the ceremony began. Two Papas (the name given to regular Greek priests) with burning tapers proceeded round the room, and lighted those given to the most distinguished guests: we observed that many of them blew theirs out again and took it home with them. The bride was dressed in a green silk robe trimmed with silver lace; the covering on her bosom left but little for the imagination to indulge upon, and was ornamented with a large nosegay; a long white veil concealed her face, but her taper hand and arm remained uncovered. The bridegroom was very plainly dressed, and from the large nosegay which he wore in his breast, appeared to be as great an admirer of flowers as his bride. After a form of prayer the rings were exchanged, and the bridegroom kissed the cheek of his bride, who wept during the

whole ceremony. When the priests were changing their rings, the parents and relations of the married couple threw small sugar plums at them, and *paras*, a small silver coin, at the priests. These reverend gentlemen seemed to think it no insult to be pelted in this way, but coolly deputed some of their attendants to collect the pieces of money, and put them in a plate, which was held for that purpose. Pipes and coffee were then brought, and the guests sat down to a supper prepared on the occasion.

The language of the country is the Romaic, or modern Greek; it may be necessary to observe that the parent tongue is scarcely understood. The inhabitants are generally poor, and even the better classes are so selfish in their dispositions, that scarce a single trace remains of the boasted hospitality of their ancestors. Some days since, a vessel touched here for provisions on her way to Jaffa; she was under Spanish colours, and was filled with pilgrims for Jerusalem, to which place she was carrying forty thousand Spanish piastres (about ten thousand pounds sterling), fifty boxes of Havannah sugar, ten thousand pounds

of coffee, and several cases of cordials, as presents from the court of Spain to the principal convent there, which is in a great measure supported by that government ; and it may be a matter of doubt, whether these presents will prove most gratifying to the monks of the convent or the Bey of Jerusalem.

LETTER XXIV.

Description of LARNECA.—MALARIA.—General Remarks.—Departure.—Coast of CARAMANIA.—Conduct of the Crew.—RHODES.—Inhabitants.—General Features of the Island.—Buildings of the Town.—Knights of MALTA.—Climate.—Indolence of the Turks.—Convent.—Hints to Travellers.

Rhodes, October 1814.

THE town of Larneca is very irregularly built, and chiefly consists of wretched houses one story high. There are, however, some very large buildings with spacious court-yards and fine gardens ; as for example, the houses of the English, French, and Prussian Consuls, and those of some eminent merchants. The streets are narrow, dirty, and not payed. A considerable part of the town is surrounded with stagnant water, waste land, and salt marsh, which during the long continuance of the dry season, which lasts from May

till October, renders the air very insalubrious. The inhabitants have an idea that this unwholesomeness of the air arises from another cause. They pretend that these pieces of stagnant water are rendered putrid by the bodies of immense quantities of locusts, which are destroyed by the intense heat and the want of verdure.

A great quantity of salt was formerly made in the island, but at present the pits are quite neglected by the Turks, and the quantity that is yearly made is very inconsiderable. The soil is not naturally sterile, and if properly managed would abundantly repay the labours of the cultivator; but industry is not among the virtues of the inhabitants, and little or no attention is paid to the agriculture of the island.

The French Consul has a large country-house and a fine garden, five miles from Larneca, near a small town called Chiti, formerly Citrum, which is pleasantly situated at a short distance from the sea, and though but small, produces abundance of orange and lemon trees, grapes, apples, and other fruits and vegetables, which is a sufficient proof

of the goodness of the soil. Cotton of a very superior quality is also cultivated in this neighbourhood. We visited the country-house of the Neapolitan Consul, which is but a short distance from that of the French consul, and has a garden well stocked with abundance of fruits and vegetables.

The principal branches of trade on this island are cotton and cotton-seed, wine, honey, turpentine, salt, and corn. The latter article is prohibited from being exported in any but Turkish vessels; this prohibition is however constantly evaded, and great quantities are exported in a clandestine manner. The avarice of the custom-house officers easily gets the better of their scruples; they have an accommodating habit of shutting their eyes, at the same time that they open their hands, and if the latter are well filled the former remain instinctively blind. It was even hinted, that the Turks, during the war, were sometimes obscured in the same way, and that considerable quantities of corn were exported to Malta. The wine is of a superior quality and very cheap, not more than about three pence the bottle. The Greeks bring it to the market in leathern

bags, of which it always retains a certain taste, not the most agreeable to the palate. Butter and cow's milk are, as in Egypt, very scarce. The breed of horses is very inconsiderable, but there are great numbers of asses, oxen, goats, sheep, and hogs. It was here, for the first time since I quitted Europe, that I saw a plough drawn by oxen, and in the use of it the Grecian peasant appeared tolerably expert.

It was about the end of September when our captain got under weigh, with the land breeze, which regularly sets in towards evening, but we had scarcely cleared the channel when it began to blow directly contrary. The captain immediately determined to return to port, but this we did not effect without difficulty, as the sea ran very high and the ship laboured hard. At length, on the following morning, we dropt anchor once again in the port of Larneca, where we were detained the whole day. Next morning we sailed a second time with a fair breeze, and the day after passed Simacosta, under full canvass, and the second day Baffa, both ports in the island of Cyprus. The latter place has lately been much thinned by a malignant fever, and many European sailors

became victims to its destructive influence. We heard of instances, when ships have been detained there, as in Larneca, several months for want of hands to work them. We soon found that our captain was but half master of the brig, and that the mate and his two brothers, who were sailors on board, did what they pleased. We likewise discovered that our gallant tars made no scruple of sleeping very composedly during their watch, and leaving the helm lashed the greater part of the night. We could scarcely credit the circumstance, when we were first informed of it by our Greek interpreter; but the following night we had a practical proof of the correctness of his assertion, for we were on the point of running foul of an English brig, though the moon was shining in full lustre. On hearing the noise I hastened on deck, where the captain was vociferating and swearing in the most violent manner. I enquired the cause of his anger, and he assured me that not only the whole watch had been asleep, but even the steersman, a Frenchman, who was the carpenter of the ship, lay snoring beside the helm; that we had narrowly escaped running foul of an English brig, and that had

the wind been high and the night dark, our situation might have been perilous in the extreme.

We lay five days becalmed, and were drifted a considerable way back by the contrary currents. During the whole of this period we were in sight of the coast of Caramania, and for a considerable time were so near the shore as to be able to see distinctly the remains of Myra, situated near the mouth of a river on the northern side of the bay of Finica. The appearance of the whole coast is indescribably grand: the craggy summits of the rocks shoot boldly up from the shore, and are frequently lost in the clouds. As we lay in this situation, in momentary expectation of a favourable breeze, one morning we were not a little surprised to see our sailors lowering the captain's boat, and six of them with loaded guns preparing to go on shore; they said it was their intention to shoot some wild goats they saw on a hill, not far up the beach. The captain opposed the project, as it might be the means of detaining us; but he had not sufficient authority, and they persisted in going. To give some colour to their disobedience, they pretended that the inha-

bitants of these shores were all pirates and robbers, and deserved to be extirpated. Actuated by these sublime feelings of justice and universal philanthropy, they rowed off. After remaining on shore about two hours, these ruffians returned with a couple of large goats and a young one, which they had wounded, and brought bleeding on board. They were received by their companions with as much joy as if they had performed the most heroic deed, though we did not hear a word more of the severe retribution with which they intended to visit the plunderers of these shores. We informed the captain that we were determined to make this piratical conduct known to the Consul of the first port we touched at; a conduct which, we assured him, was totally incompatible with the respect they owed to the flag they had the honour of sailing under. This menace had the desired effect; they came on deck and promised most faithfully never to offend in this way again, protesting, however, that the goats were wild, and that they had wronged no one by shooting them.

On the 4th of October the wind began to freshen, but still remained unfavourable.

We therefore determined, as we were in want of a fresh supply of wood and water, to make for the island of Rhodes; and on the 5th, at eleven o'clock, we dropped anchor in the bay opposite the town. We went on shore, and presented our letters of introduction to Monsieur Magallon, the French Consul, an agreeable and well-informed man, who though now in his 75th year, has lately had the courage to marry the daughter of his drogman, who is not much above twenty. He received us very politely, begging a thousand times over that we would excuse him for sitting in our presence in a night-cap and a large cocked hat, gravely assuring us it was not done from choice, for that he was unable to procure a wig either in this or any of the neighbouring islands; but to calm our solicitude, he told us he had ordered one from Malta, and that he was in daily expectation of its arrival. We told him it was our wish to be treated without ceremony, and begged him to be perfectly easy as to the personal arrangements he had made in the absence of his wig. It was, however, no easy matter to retain our gravity at his comical appearance. We had a proof of his being on good terms with the

Bey, for it was at his request that we obtained leave to replenish our water-casks from the great fountain in the town. This permission was still more important at the present moment, as the recent droughts had caused a scarcity of water in the islands; nor was this all, for an order was given that a guard should be placed near the fountain to prevent the inhabitants approaching till we had filled our casks.

The Turks in this island, as in Cyprus, are on a very friendly footing with the Christians, and the Bey appears on good terms with the Grand Signior. The men are all dressed in the Grecian costume; and the ladies are habited like those already described in Cyprus, but are neither so handsome nor so graceful in their persons. Modern Greek is the language in common use, but they all understand a little of the Italian. The number of Christians is very small. There is no English Consul at present in the place, as the last who held this office died some time ago.

The general appearance of the island is cheerful and pleasing, and the view from the harbour is bold and picturesque. The coast near the town is covered with country

houses, which are all painted white, and produce a pleasing effect in the midst of the groves of orange and lemon trees that embellish the shore. Though the island is so rocky as fully to justify the title of "the rugged Rhodes" given it by the poet Statius, yet many of the vales are extremely fertile. At present the island is very thinly inhabited, and considerably fallen from its former importance. The harbour lies much exposed, and affords but little protection to ships during the gales of winter, although the anchorage is considered as very good. It is particularly insecure when the *Scirocco*, or south-east winds set in, which is generally the case in October or November, when there is a very heavy sea. The interior of the harbour is secure enough, but there is no depth of water for large vessels. The entrance is very narrow, between two piers; on one side stands a massy pillar of stone, and there was formerly another on the opposite side, but it has disappeared. Here it was that the famous Colossus, one of the seven wonders of the world, formerly stood, but it was thrown down by an earthquake, and the materials sold by the Saracens to a Jew of Edessa.

This town was in former times strongly fortified, but it is now almost totally fallen into ruins. It is garrisoned by a handful of Turkish soldiers, who appear equally destitute of discipline and of military knowledge. We visited the castle, which is in a miserable state of defence; its only ordnance are two large brass cannons and several small field-pieces badly mounted. The gates of the town are of very ancient structure. The houses are all built of brick, generally of one, but seldom exceeding two stories in height; the streets are narrow and tolerably well paved. The suburbs are mostly inhabited by the Christians, as they are not permitted to reside within the walls of the town. We visited the street called *des Chevaliers*, from its being formerly inhabited by the Knights of Malta; most of the houses have the arms of their ancient possessors still remaining over the doors and windows. Several of these buildings were in a good style of architecture, though they are now almost all uninhabited and fallen to ruins; even those that are still habitable are occupied by people of the lowest class, and form a sad contrast,

in their present filth and wretchedness, to their former splendour. The hospital and the church of the knights, situated in the same street, are still in good preservation; they are both built of free stone, in a true style of architecture, and ornamented over the doors with the arms of the order of Malta.

The environs of the town are in a good state of cultivation, and the gardens well stocked with orange and lemon trees, grapes of superior quality, and all the variety of fruits and vegetables common to these countries. The climate is thought to be healthy, as they are rarely visited by the plague; but fevers are prevalent during the summer months: not, however, of such a malignant and contagious nature as those at Cyprus. The heat is very great during that season, but the westerly breezes seldom fail to set in then and refresh the air: very little rain falls, and thunder storms are not frequent.

The Turks of this island are not more remarkable for industry than the rest of their brethren; their whole occupation consists in smoking and staring at each other, never

opening their lips, except to exhale the fumes of their pipes. Of their perseverance in this lethargic and stupifying act, we had a striking proof the other day. About nine in the morning, on our way to the French Consul, we saw two Turks seated cross-legged upon a straw mat on the wharf. They were dressed in their long loose gowns, and equipped as if it had been December, though the heat was intense. They attracted our attention, and we regarded them for near a quarter of an hour without once hearing them utter a syllable. It was full half past eleven when we returned, and to our surprise they were still sitting in precisely the same attitude; their pouch of tobacco lay beside them, and they were smoking and looking at each other with the same immoveable yet unmeaning gravity.

The name of the present Bey is Hassan, who is very friendly to the Christians, and consequently much liked by them. Much was said of some antiquities situated at the distance of three miles to the west of the town, but we found nothing except the remains of a nameless fortification, and of a chapel once dedicated to the Virgin. There is a very good convent here, where travellers may be accommodated

during their stay in the island, and which commands a most beautiful and extensive view of the town and its neighbourhood, and the opposite shores of Caramania. It has a very good church, which is at once spacious and well ornamented.

The French Consul informed us that Lady Esther Stanhope had been shipwrecked two years ago near this island, and that he had the honour of entertaining her ladyship at his house. Travellers should never think of coming to this port to seek for a passage to Europe, as large vessels seldom touch at it, and the small boats which sail for the Grecian islands are at once unpleasant and unsafe. The unavoidable imposition of the Greeks likewise, who know that travellers are in their power, is another objection against visiting the island to those who do not choose to pay most exorbitantly for the means of quitting it again.

APPENDIX.

GREEK INSCRIPTION FOUND AT CORFU.

(Vide Page 146.)

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

IN SENATE, JANUARY 18, 1880.
REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE
MAY 1, 1879.

THE LAND OFFICE HAS THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE, IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE MAY 1, 1879.

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
IN SENATE, JANUARY 18, 1880.
REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE
IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE
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THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
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IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE SENATE
MAY 1, 1879.

ΕΔΟΞΕΤΑΙ ΑΛΙΑΙ ΤΡΟ
ΞΕΝΟΝ ΕΙΜΕΝ ΒΟΙΣ ΚΟΝ
ΛΥΚΟΦΡΟΝΟΣ ΔΩΔΩ
ΝΑΙ ΟΝ ΑΥΤΟΝ ΚΑΙ ΕΚΓΟ
ΝΟΥΣ ΕΙΜΕΝ ΔΕ ΑΥΤΟΙΣ
ΓΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΟΙΚΙΑΣ ΕΓΚΤΑ
ΣΙΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΑ ΑΛΛΑ ΤΙΜΙ
ΑΟΣΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΙΣ ΑΛΛΟΙΣ
ΤΡΟΞΕΝΟΙΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΥΕΡΓΕ
ΤΑΙΣ ΤΑΝ ΔΕ ΤΡΟΞΕΝΙ
ΑΝ ΓΡΑΨΑΝΤΑΣ ΕΙΣ ΧΑΛ
ΚΩΜΑ ΑΝΑΘΕΜΕΝ ΟΤΤΕΙ
ΚΑΔΟΚΗΤ ΤΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΙΣ ΤΡΟ
ΔΙΚΟΙΣ ΣΤΡΑΤΑΓΟΙΣ ΚΑ
ΛΩΣ ΕΧΕΙΝ ΤΟΝ ΔΕ ΤΑΜΙ
ΑΝ ΔΕ ΜΕΝ ΤΟ ΓΕΝΟΜΕΝΟΝ
ΑΝΑΛΩΜΑ. ΚΟΡΚΥΡΑ.

ΒΟΙΣ ΚΟΝ ΛΥΚΟΦΡΟΝΟΣ
ΔΩΔΩΝΑΙΟΝ

TRANSLATION.

‘ It is approved by the council, that Bœscus,
‘ son of Lycophron, native of Dodona, shall be *Prox-*
‘ *enos*,* himself and his posterity; and that they
‘ shall have the right of acquiring property in house
‘ and land, and all other honourable privileges
‘ accorded to other *Proxenoï* and public benefac-
‘ tors; and that they shall cause this *Proxenia* to
‘ be engraven on a brass plate, and shall fix it up
‘ wherever may appear most fitting to the chief
‘ senators, advocates, and generals; and that the
‘ treasurer shall receive the incurred expense.—
‘ Corcyra.’†

‘ Bœscus, son of Lycophron,
‘ Dodonæan.’

* Receiver of the rights of hospitality, *Proxenia*, which conferred on a stranger the privileges of settlement.

† Corfu was formerly called Corcyra.

It may be curious to observe, that there is an error in the original inscription: ΑΛΠΙΟΙΣ, at the end of the eighth line; should be ΑΛΛΟΙΣ.

END OF VOL. I.

Bramsen, John

Travels in Egypt, Syria, Cyprus, the Morea, Greece, Italy, &c. &c in a series of letters, interspersed with anecdotes of distinguished persons and illustrations of political occurrences ; in two volumes

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